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OPINION METER

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INSIDE



Delay Convicted

Former House majority leader Tom DeLay is convicted on two felonies that could send him to prison for decades.

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Korea Tension

South Korea's president vows to boost security around its islands.

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Three Stars

Japan's capital has retained its top spot in the world of gastronomy.

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For CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan, the new pat-down procedures and introduction of a full body scanner at the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport is something the traveling public must learn to endure until new, less invasive technology is developed for searches.

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Sablan



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

DFS Worldwide Store Operations president Michael Schriver hands the 2009 Lighthouse Award to DFS Saipan Limited president Marian Aldan-Pierce during the annual DFS Journey in early September.

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26 years of providing the island with its car needs. **PAGE 20**

NEW TSA SECURITY MEASURES

Kilili: This is the reality we live in



THIS IS HOW WE DO IT

CLARISSA V. DAVID
Martina Olopai, right, performs along with cultural dancers on stage during the man'amko luncheon sponsored by Fiesta Resort and Spa on Wednesday at the Hibiscus Hall.

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Aldan-Pierce is 2009 Lighthouse awardee

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

DFS Saipan Limited president Marian Aldan-Pierce was recently chosen by senior executives of the world's leading luxury retailer to receive the 2009 Lighthouse Award for her untiring contributions to the Commonwealth community.

Aldan-Pierce was honored with one of 10 Global Management Awards that acknowledge the best individuals and teams with notable accomplishments during the "DFS Journey" of senior executives in early September.

She received the award from DFS Worldwide Store Operations president Michael Shriver.

See AWARDEE on Page 4

17 of CUC's 45 sewage lift stations in poor condition

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Seventeen of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s approximately 45 sewage lift stations are in poor condition and require significant rehabilitation.

RELATED NEWS

CUC: No funding to meet oil pipeline project deadline. **PAGE 3**

This was one of the reasons cited by the Fitial administration in its latest emergency declaration for the embattled utilities firm.

"Sewage lift station failures continue, requiring CUC crews to install new receiver pumps.

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Local

Calvo is Sinapalo Elementary's outstanding teacher

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A veteran educator on Rota was adjudged as the Sinapalo Elementary School's outstanding classroom teacher of the year.

Lorna Calvo, a teacher for 11 years, was honored by her colleagues and students during the school's education day festivities on Tuesday.

She was described by her peers as a teacher at heart, a mentor, a friend, a good role

model, and a person who changes the lives of many of her students.

"Ms. Calvo has continuously demonstrated an excellent performance in carrying out her duties and responsibilities to be an outstanding and effective teacher. She is a teacher who cares a lot about her students and is committed to nurturing the minds and talents of students. She makes sure that her students are in a safe, orderly, and conducive environment.

She not only reaches out stu-

where they can enjoy learning," Sinapalo management and staff said in a statement.

They said that Calvo tries every opportunity to integrate what she teaches with other subjects and connects it to the real world so that learning can be meaningful and fun. Daily motivational and interactive approaches are her way of helping students learn how to love, enjoy, appreciate, and understand the purpose of learning.

She not only reaches out stu-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Sinapalo Elementary School's outstanding teacher Lorna Calvo, third from left, is joined by three other education awardees for this year. The outstanding personnel were recognized during Tuesday's education day celebration on campus.

dents but also goes beyond the classroom setting and reaches out to parents and the community. She is an active member of the Chamorro Dictionary Thematic Group, Project Familia, a mentor for novice teachers and School Leadership Learning Community. She also has given numerous workshops to teachers and parents to promote student achievement.

Also recognized in the celebration was Mack James who was chosen as the school's teacher aide of the year. As a related service technician for special education, he has displayed dedication, determination and willingness to help others. He goes beyond the requirements of his position, making sure that student learning and productivity

is steadily increased. Continually learning for himself, he has also attended trainings in autism services, alternate assessment processes, renaissance learning, and many other professional development trainings.

The school's support staff of the year is Demy Catubay who has been with the school for five years. He serves as the school's administrative assistant/technology personnel and school aide. His peers say he humbly lives up to his commitment and leadership.

"He is one member in the education community that has exhibited tremendous support and services to the students as well as the staff and faculty of Sinapalo Elementary School. His openness to learn more and become

a better person is a quality that reflects a true leader," the school management said about him.

Chosen as the school's maintenance of the year awardee was Gonzalo Atchico, who exemplifies dedication, discipline, and loyalty to his job. As a valued employee of Sinapalo Elementary, Atchico was described as a well-rounded and hardworking skills man. Under challenging conditions, he never gives up at trying his best. If a barrier arises, he finds ways to climb over, go around, under, and/or through that barrier.

"That's what makes this man a valuable asset to our Public School System. His attitude toward life defines not only who he is, but the quality of life he will have," his peers added.

DESPITE TOUGH YEAR

Fitial administration still thankful

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

In their message yesterday, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos wished the

people of the Commonwealth a safe and blessed Thanksgiving and hoped each and everyone in the CNMI have a peaceful and healthy year of "abundant blessings."

While acknowledging 2010 as a very tough year, when the CNMI experienced for the first time payless paydays and a government shutdown, Fitial and Inos said the people of the CNMI still have a lot to be thankful for.

"The CNMI should be thankful for the gift of life, family, and friends. Despite the economic challenges we face, our people still remain steadfast toward upholding our traditional values and family oriented way of life. Despite budgetary constraints, our government is still able to deliver public services. While we recognize that there have been brighter days, we must give thanks for the things that we still enjoy in a place where freedom and liberty lives on," said the governor's press secretary, Angel A. Demapan.

The Fitial administration also continues to tout the U.S. military buildup in Guam as possibly helping the CNMI economy, which now survives on the back of its tourism industry following the demise of the once-\$1-billion-a-year garment industry.

"The administration is hopeful that economic improvement will soon be realized. We are optimistic that our islands will stand to reap some benefits from the impending military buildup in our region," said Demapan.

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CUC: No funding to meet oil pipeline project deadline

» EPA blames CUC for being slow in complying with orders

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

This early, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. already expects not to meet the June 1, 2011, deadline for the construction of a new oil pipeline due to a lack of funding.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, however, blames CUC for its funding woes because of its untimely compliance with other provisions in the stipulated court orders.

Deborah E. Fisher, counsel for CUC, said if funding is not available by Dec. 1, 2010, it is unlikely that the pipeline project will be completed on time.

"CUC has been following up with federal agencies and the local Capital Improvement Projects division for the additional funding required for this critical project," said Fisher in CUC's second status report filed with the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Nov. 13.

To maximize timely completion, Fisher said that CUC is making efforts to find enough funds so it could now buy the parts and materials for the pipeline and get them shipped to Saipan, to avoid delays in the construction process.

The CNMI Public Utilities

Commission had approved the pipeline rehabilitation contract on July 30, 2010.

CUC, however, does not have enough funds to begin construction, Fisher said. She did not indicate the amount CUC needs to complete the project.

If funding is built into current rates, Fisher said, that will entail a longer process, and will include seeking to finance the project through a bond that future rates will cover or through next year's revenues from the proposed rate increase.

Fisher said the rate case has been submitted, and does provide for financing, but unless there is a bond issued, CUC does not anticipate having its own funds to begin construction until the new, higher rates are collected.

"While a March [Public Utilities Commission] order will be implemented in bills for April usage, those bills will not be paid for another 15-30 days by customers," she said.

CUC has submitted the completed design work of the project along with some of the comments that CUC had compiled after its peer review on Aug. 30, 2010. EPA and the Department of Transportation provided comments on Nov. 5, 2010, and gave CUC 20 days to respond.

CUC has provided the comments to the contractor.

Although construction work cannot begin until the design approved is received, Fisher said CUC and the contractor are working on having the permitting issues cleared so that implementing the project will not be delayed.

Bradley R. O'Brien of the U.S. Department of Justice's Environment and Natural Resources Division Environmental Enforcement Section pointed out, though, that if CUC had complied with other provisions of the stipulated orders, "perhaps this very important project would have been fully funded and well on its way to completion." Those provisions include immediately hiring a chief financial officer and a technical manager for oil, billing customers and installing meters on time, and developing an acceptable financial structure and budget.

In the U.S. government's second status report filed in court on Wednesday, O'Brien said the second joint stipulation established a new June 1, 2011, construction deadline for this pipeline project as CUC failed to meet the second stipulated order and first joint stipulation deadlines.

"The point to be made is that the stipulated orders were negotiated over an approximate two-year period with the common understanding that they are not standalone requirements, but are intertwined and built upon each other, and that if the preliminary tasks are not completed properly then the successive tasks will also not be performed properly or timely," O'Brien said.

The stipulated orders, entered by CUC and EPA, are intended to reform CUC's wastewater systems, drinking water systems,

power plants and pipeline operations—and importantly, CUC's organizational structure—in order to move CUC to become a viable functioning utility.

With respect to the pipeline project, the stipulated orders require submission of information relating to the CUC pipeline construction and operation, describe all pipeline releases or

threatened releases of oil, and assess the adequacy of corrosion control.

The stipulated orders also require CUC to investigate the integrity of the pipeline, prepare and implement a pipeline repair work plan, and create a written manual of procedures establishing minimum standards for safely operating the pipeline.

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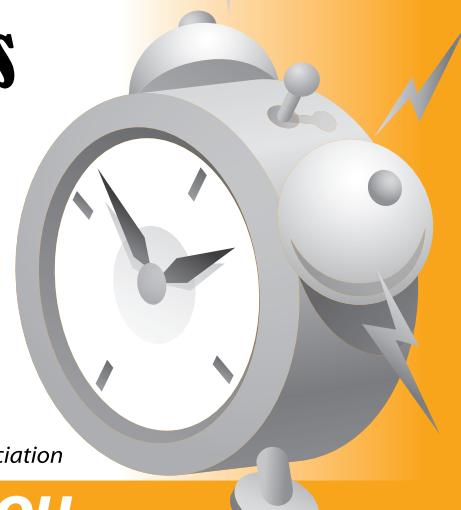
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235-2030

Survey equipment donated to Northern Islands residents

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Some of the equipment and materials used to conduct the Marianas Expedition Wildlife Surveys 2010 were donated to the Northern Islands Mayor's Office last Nov. 24.

The items that were turned over on Wednesday included one 12-foot inflatable boat with a 9.9hp Yamaha engine; two Honda portable generators; one solar freezer; eight solar panels; four dry cell batteries for solar panels; one Poland chainsaw; one submersible water pump; four 500-gallon water tanks; one mounted map of Pagan; and one dry eraser board.

Curt C. Kessler, wildlife biologist for U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, handed the donated items to Northern Islands Mayor Tobias Aldan.

Kessler told *Saipan Tribune* that the terrestrial survey as well as the equipment and materials used were funded by the U.S. Department of Defense through the Fish & Wildlife Service.

Kessler said the terrestrial survey was conducted in relation to the plans of the U.S. military to build a training ground on Pagan Island.

AWARDEE

From Page 1

DFS Journey is the annual visit of senior executives from the Hong Kong corporate office to various DFS locations around the world to present prestigious awards to division employees.

Aldan-Pierce was recommended by her boss, former DFS Pacific Division managing director Jim Beighley, who is now in charge of the company's global marketing strategies and development.

According to Beighley, the Lighthouse Award recognizes one member of the DFS family worldwide that embodies model citizenship and one who gives tirelessly to the community.

Beighley, who has known Aldan-Pierce for 16 years, described her as an exceptional leader and human being who regards everyone with dignity and respect, earning the same from this island community.

"It is rare to meet someone who commands such true respect in a community. I say true respect because it is this rare respect that is earned, through countless acts of generosity, countless hours spent in the community on worthy projects to benefit those less fortunate than most of us and all with a sincerity, honesty and energy that inspires people to want to support and follow her," Beighley said of Aldan-Pierce.

In an interview with the *Saipan Tribune*, Aldan-Pierce described how astonished she was when Shriver called her name to accept the award.

"It's just one of those things that you don't think people know what you do. ... We just kind of come to work and do the best that we can and that's it," she said, narrating how she got emotional, particularly when she heard what Beighley had to say about her.

DFS career

Aldan-Pierce recounted how she began her career with the luxury retailer that caters to the traveling public at the age of 21.

According to Aldan-Pierce, she was

He said the terrestrial survey was a joint effort of the Division of Fish and Wildlife and the Northern Islands Mayor's Office.

According to Kessler, the used materials were distributed to different islands that need them the most.

"These materials were used during the survey and I believe this will go a very long way for the people of the Northern Islands," said Kessler.

Program coordinator Jerome Kaipat Aldan expressed appreciation for the donated items, which he said was made possible by Kessler.

"We wrote to him and asked him for donations from the items used during the survey. I think he worked hard and spoke to the people in the Honolulu office in getting us this donation," he said.

According to Aldan, the donated



CLARISSA V. DAVID

From left, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service wildlife biologist Curt C. Kessler, Santiago Castro and Lerins Stole of the Northern Islands Mayor's Office Staff, Mayor Tobias Aldan, and Jess Omar of Division of Fish & Wildlife.

the first employee for DFS Saipan, which did not yet have its store on island back in 1976. "I was the executive secretary for the general manager," she added.

Two days later, after having done interviews with job applicants, Aldan-Pierce became in charge of the human resources department of DFS Saipan.

"It's one of those things when you happen to be at the right place at the right time and met all the right people. I've just been very blessed," she said.

Aldan-Pierce said she would get overwhelmed just thinking about how she watched DFS Saipan grow from nothing to what it is today. "I've been through all the good times and the bad," she added.

The DFS Saipan president revealed how she thought of giving up her job with the company a couple of times to move to another career.

"I actually resigned at one time after I'd been with the company less than just several months later because I was being offered more money with the government," she disclosed.

Aldan-Pierce said she was offered a position with the then Office of Transition Studies and Planning during the time when the islands were transitioning from its Trust Territory status to becoming a commonwealth.

However, the president told her that she cannot possibly resign because the general manager enjoyed working with her. Aldan-Pierce was then given a raise.

"It wasn't even to match the government's offer," she quipped, "but then I figured, I must be doing something right so that's okay. They're not going to pay me as much but I enjoyed working for the company already. So my loyalty started," said Aldan-Pierce.

She acknowledged how DFS has molded her being and core, learning about values like humility, respect, and goodwill even from the owners and senior level managers of the company. "I love what I do because we have a great team," she added.

The Lighthouse awardee also affirmed how DFS has reinforced in her the importance of being a good citizen

in the community one belongs to.

"You give because you're a part of the community. You want to be a good corporate citizen. Certainly, Saipan has been very good to the company. So we just want to give whatever we have. ... It's great to work with a company that just loves to give without expecting anything back," she said.

Inspiration

With her position, Aldan-Pierce said she is able to help the community in many ways but she also acknowledged the responsibility that comes with it.

"Kids kind of look up to you so you have a certain responsibility, certainly to the owners," she said.

Aldan-Pierce shared how her experience also inspired her to help those who are less fortunate in life.

"We were seven kids and my mother was making only \$0.42 an hour with the government. But she was able to put us through private schools," she recounted.

Aldan-Pierce makes sure her own children understand these values and principles she believes in. "The thing that I've always told them is you go out and help those who cannot help themselves," she added.

Besides her family, what also motivates Aldan-Pierce are members of the community who do not enjoy the same privileges that others have.

"The thing that I know and I appreciate is, a lot of people here are here. If things start going bad, they cannot get on the plane and leave. ... In my mind, I want to help those people. Because certainly, I'm one that can leave. But for those that cannot, I want them to have a very good life here. ... The environment that I grew up with, I want them to have. ... That's why I fight for a lot of things," she said.

Aldan-Pierce said one invaluable lesson she learned from DFS is doing the right thing just because.

"As long as you're not hurting anybody in the process, do what's right for the majority of the people. ... You want to be able to leave a footprint that you're going to be proud of at the end of the day," she said.

items will greatly help the Northern Islands residents who have been resettled on the islands since September.

At present, about 20 people have been resettled on Agrigan, 50 on Pa-

gan, and 15 on Alamagan.

Aldan said that through the donation, the local government saved a significant amount of money since they do not need to buy the materials anymore.

"The money we saved can now be used for the development of the Northern Islands," he said.

CUC said that one engineer has already been hired and will start work in January 2011.

Higher quality equipment

Other impending emergencies the agency expects to occur in the next 12 months include the failure of 98 submersible pumps in the water system.

"Higher grade stainless steel grates have to be specified that are resistant to pitting. The pitting causes the grates to fail, and consequently the pump motors fail. ... CUC has had to purchase higher quality equipment, rather than the cheap units that fail prematurely," it added.

The government said that motor protection also continues to be a challenge. It disclosed that last September, one of the newly installed 30-horsepower motors was hit by lightning and was damaged after only a month of operation.

Unprecedented number of waterline breaks, leaks

CUC admitted that it continues to suffer from an unprecedented number of waterline breaks and water leaks this year.

In September, it reported six new leaks in just one day, which required repair crews to work significant overtime. All repair work was performed using rental backhoes.

Last month, a 16-inch PVC waterline ruptured on As Terlaje Hill, resulting in the loss of water volume in the Kannat Tabla tank and damaging the As Terlaje Hill road. It cost CUC \$100,000 to repair this.

"CUC professionals consider the number of leaks the company experiences to be excessive, particularly because CUC does not provide 24-hour water and does not properly pressurize the water system. These leak repair projects stress CUC's limited staff and finances," said CUC.

boarding an airplane, I also know that there are many others who hold TSA responsible to prevent an attack from those trying to use non-metallic explosives that would not be detected by a standard metal detector."

Sablan advised the traveling public to trust TSA and that the more stringent security measures are in place for their safety and protection.

"For the present time, and until new technology is developed for less invasive searches, many feel that their safety in flights thousands of feet in the air justify the unpleasantness of having to go through the new scanners that are in airports across the country, including at our Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport," he said.

Senate floor leader Pete Reyes on Tuesday criticized TSA's new full body scanners, describing it as "tantamount to having a free porno show" at the airport.

According to TSA information, however, images generated by the full body scanners—dubbed advanced imaging technology—are viewed in a walled off location that is not visible to the public.

It added that the officer assisting the passenger cannot see the image, and the officer viewing the image never sees the passenger.

KILILI

From Page 1

"None of us are happy about waiting in line and the extra time it takes to get through security at the airport these days. But this is the reality we live with as long as there are terrorists out there who want to attack us," he said in an email to *Saipan Tribune*.

Sablan said the Transportation and Security Administration, which deployed the full body scanner at the airport on Monday, should figure out a better way to ensure the traveling public's safety without infringing too much on their civil liberties.

"We don't like being searched, but we sure don't want anyone sneaking explosives onto our plane. So, we need to find a balance between our safety in flight and our personal freedom from unreasonable searches by government agents," he said.

Sablan said one way to accomplish that is to support TSA's efforts to develop less invasive screening procedures and technology.

"That will help and I will definitely support TSA in that way," he said. "While I know that there are some who may have problems with giving consent to a required search as a matter of

Judge finds no evidence that lawyers noticed absence of public

» Judge says press members should have been called to testify

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A visiting U.S. District Court for the NMI judge said he can't find any evidence that any of the attorneys—for the defendants or the prosecution—ever noticed the absence of members of the public or family members in the courtroom during jury selection in the trial of former lieutenant governor Timothy P. Villagomez and couple James and Joaquina Santos.

"I do not [and cannot] make a finding as to what the reason might have been. I can only find that nothing in the record shows that the attorneys for the parties actually noticed, and I decline to find, on this record, that they should have noticed," said visiting judge Mark W. Bennett in his 44-page opinion and order issued on Wednesday.

Bennett also found that the defendants themselves should have known at the time the exclusion of family members from the courtroom during jury selection.

Bennett said, however, that he cannot find that the defense attorneys should also have known at the time.

"It certainly seems likely to me that the defendants complained to their attorneys that their family members were not being allowed to enter the courthouse or the courtroom during jury selection, but no evidence was produced in the Rule 10(e) proceedings that showed they communicated such concerns to their attorneys," the judge said.

At least seven lawyers, including one prosecutor, were involved in the trial.

David J. Lujan and Leilani Lujan served as counsel for Villagomez. Joey Patrick San Nicolas also assisted the Lujans in the trial.

Ramon Quichocho defended Joaquina Santos. Victorino Torres served as counsel for James Santos. Vincent Torres also assisted his brother, Victorino Torres, in the trial.

Assistant U.S. attorney Eric O'Malley prosecuted the case.

Bennett said he also could not find that members of the press, as members of and proxies for the general public, were al-

lowed in the courtroom during jury selection.

"I was the only person to ask any witness whether members of the press—who are necessarily also members of and proxies for the general public—were allowed in the courtroom during jury selection, but I received no definitive answer on that point," he said.

In the footnote of his order, Bennett said it would likely have been reasonably easy for the prosecution to produce either members of the press to testify about their presence in the courtroom during jury selection in this case or archives of news reports showing that reporters were present in the courtroom during jury selection in this case.

"One should conclude that the reason that no such evidence was produced was that there was none," he said.

In the same ruling, Bennett ruled that there was no order from either then federal court chief judge Alex R. Munson or the U.S. Marshal's Office to bar members of the public or family members from the courtroom during the jury selection.

Bennett, however, determined that there is "simply no credible evidence" that any members of the public were allowed into the courtroom at any time during jury selection.

Munson presided over the Villagomez trial in 2009. He stepped down as an active judge in February 2010 and is now a senior judge.

Bennett pointed out that his role in the evidentiary proceedings is strictly as a finder of fact concerning what happened; the legal implications of what happened are for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in its disposition of the defendants' appeal.

Bennett conducted the evidentiary hearing on Nov. 9 and 10, 2010. It sought to determine whether or not Munson closed the jury selection to the public. It was held to settle the record of the trial.

Villagomez and Santos sought to settle the record so they could bolster their assertions—on appeal in the Ninth Circuit—that their constitutional rights were violated when the public was

excluded from jury selection. If there was a violation, they believe this could ultimately reverse their convictions.

The defendants are now serving their sentences in federal prison. They appealed to reverse many of the court's orders. The case came to be called the Rydlyme scandal, the biggest one in CNMI history.

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Fiesta Resort treats man'amko to early Thanksgiving lunch

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Fiesta Resort and Spa gave the man'amko on Saipan a Thanksgiving treat on Wednesday with a sumptuous luncheon at the Hibiscus Hall.

The island's elderly indulged in a delicious, seven-course banquet that included fresh vegetable salad, mashed potato, turkey, ham, and fresh fruits for dessert.

Serving as waitstaff throughout the luncheon were the different hotel managers and supervisors who made sure the man'amko enjoyed the experience.

Food and Beverage manager Das Krishnan said Fiesta Resort and Spa has made this luncheon treat for the man'amko an annual activity as a way to show their appreciation to the senior citizens who are an important part of the community.

"The man'amko are wonderful people. They have a lot of spirit in them. We hope they enjoy their Thanksgiving," he said.

Human Resources manager Lupe Flores said they have been hosting the annual luncheon at

the Hibiscus Hall in the last two years so the man'amko can appreciate the hotel surroundings.

"We want them to get out of the Center, enjoy and have fun in a new environment. We want them to enjoy the food and enjoy themselves," said Flores.

During the luncheon, the senior citizens also reveled in a cultural program presented by the Tasi group, the hotel's in-

house cultural dancers.

To add more fun to the man'amko's day, the cultural dancers invited some of the senior citizens to dance with them on stage.

Martina Olopai, who got the most applause for dancing on stage with the cultural dancers, said she enjoyed the program as well as the food prepared by Fiesta Resort and Spa.

"I had so much fun. I feel great having danced and it's so nice that they did this for us," said Olopai.

Office on Aging Director Rose Mondala expressed her appreciation to Fiesta Resort and Spa for throwing a Thanksgiving lunch and cultural program for the man'amko.

"Thank you for making us remember how it feels like

to be young once again," she quipped.

Mondala also thanked the band and dancers for their performances as well as the hotel staff for their good service.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

A cultural dancer performs during the man'amko luncheon sponsored by Fiesta Resort and Spa Wednesday at the Hibiscus Hall.



The talented musicians of Eucon International School and College during the recent annual music concert held at the school's auditorium.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Eucon students show off musical chops in concert

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The in-house talents of the Eucon International School and College showed off their musical chops during their annual concert at the school's auditorium last week.

The special show, dubbed the Sacred Music Concert, was highlighted by 18 performances on the piano, flute, clarinet, trumpet, violin, viola, and cello.

The show was graced by Dr. Yoh Shirato, a vocalist from Harvest Christian Academy in Guam who served as the special guest for the event.

Eucon management, led by its president Dr. Christian Wei, described the event as a big success for the college.

"We are blessed with various skilled and talented musicians in our student body as well as faculty and staff," Wei said.

This was the second concert organized by the college's student body this year. The first was a classical concert in April. Both shows serve as the college's fundraiser for various school projects.

Eucon now plans to hold two major concerts each year: classical and sacred music.

To end the year, Eucon will host a special Christmas program called the "Last Wise Man," slated on Dec. 6 at 6:30pm at the school's auditorium.

Last week's show featured pianists JJ Rockstroh, RuthAnn Ledgerwood, who is also a violinist, and Grace Yasa; flutists Elim Wu, Selena Li, and Joseph Ding; clarinet player Caleb Wang; trumpet player Isaac Sun; er'hu player Winston Mao; violinists Cathy Brier, Christa and Christian Jr. Wei, and Christians and Christianne Wei; and cellist Jasmine Chen.

Eucon International School and College students, faculty and staff extend their deepest gratitude to National Office Supply and Barny's Pizza and Catering for sponsoring the event and all members of the community for their patronage.

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Acting Commerce chief ready for challenge

»Igisomar: Priority is to lower threshold for foreign investors

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

While awaiting his nomination to be sent to the Senate, acting Commerce chief Sixto Igisomar already has his priorities laid out on how best to help the CNMI get out of the economy rut it currently is in.

"First of all I'm humbled [by] the recommendation by the governor. ... I am willing to take the challenge for the benefit and betterment of the CNMI. My goal is to assist [Commerce] staff to be able to provide the CNMI the best opportunities," he said.

In an interview with acting Eloy S. Inos Tuesday, he said Igisomar's nomination will be signed and sent to the Senate as soon Gov. Benigno R. Fitial returns from a trip to the U.S. mainland.

"As soon as the governor returns from his trip we will send [Igisomar's] nomination over.

As far as I'm concerned I believe we got the letter ready for the governor to sign," said Inos.

The CNMI chief executive was expected to arrive on Saipan yesterday, in time to spend Thanksgiving in the Commonwealth.

Investor rules

Igisomar, who joined Commerce in February 2009, said he and his department staff have their work cut out for them, given the poor state of the Commonwealth economy.

"We have a lot of work to do ahead of us. My first goal, aside from stabilizing all federal grants coming through Commerce, is to focus on U.S. immigration issues with regards to foreign investors," he said.

Igisomar said he wouldn't even wait for the Department of Homeland Security to release foreign investor regulations, which ideally should've come out a good half

year ago, before starting his work in improving the islands' foreign investment climate.

"It would be irrelevant for me to wait for regulations. Right now, what I need to do is to work with the governor to find a solution where we could initiate a dialogue with Congress through [CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan] to work with rules especially for investor capital in the CNMI," he said.

Igisomar said Commerce's first order of business should be to make it more competitive for foreign companies to come in and invest in the Commonwealth.

"For example, like Guam

has a lower foreign investor threshold. Look at Guam and what they have and see how I can improve on what they have. But the bottom line is to lower the threshold for foreign investors. Right now it's at \$1 million. Guam is \$200,000 and that was only done through

legislation," he said.

Igisomar said the CNMI should follow Guam's example and reduce the foreign investor threshold to as low as \$100,000.

"We got to work on that... if its \$250,000, \$200,00, or \$100,000. My goal is to lower that to something workable for the CNMI because right now the \$1 million is only for huge corporations. As you know small businesses are the ones that keep economies going. The CNMI doesn't have enough small businesses. We really need to bring in other small businesses and invest," he said.

Besides his Commerce duties, Igisomar is also a trustee of the NMI Retirement Fund and a board member of the Commonwealth Development Authority.

Igisomar was thrust into the acting Commerce secretary post following the resignation on Oct. 9 of Michael Ada.

Christmas CD to benefit Rotary projects

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Rotary Club of Saipan launched Tuesday a Christmas CD that highlights artists from the region and aims to raise funds for the organization's projects in the community.

"Christmas in the Marianas," which features 15 original and cover holiday songs interpreted by 15 artists from Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and Guam, will be sold for \$15 each.

"This is the first time that the Rotary Club produced a Christmas CD featuring songs in Chamorro, Carolinian, and English and performed only by local artists," Club service director Laila Boyer said during the CD launch at the Aging Center Tuesday.

Rotarian Perry Inos said some 2,000 copies of "Christmas in the Marianas" were made in the Philippines to be sold on island.

According to Inos, the songs performed

by artists from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota were recorded on island while four artists recorded their songs in Guam.

Boyer told reporters that proceeds of the Christmas CD sales will fund various Rotary projects, including the construction of a children's playground for Kagman village.

"Hopefully, the community will get involved and help us sell the CD. The more we sell, the more funds will go back to the community," said Rotary president Glen Perez.

Copies of "Christmas in the Marianas" may be purchased from any Rotary Club

member. The Rotary is still working out a deal with major stores on Saipan to sell the album.

Reservations for the Christmas CD can be made through the Rotary Club's Facebook page or by sending an email to saipanrotary@gmail.com.

Boyer said the songs in the album will be played in radio stations on island beginning this Friday.

"The CD is a perfect island gift especially for those who are far away from the islands," said Boyer.

CD giveaways

The Rotary gave away five CDs to the man'amko during Tuesday's raffle draw.

According to Boyer, they are also working out a deal with Guam Rotary Clubs to purchase 250 copies of the Christmas CDs.

The purchased CDs will be included in the care packages to be sent to CNMI soldiers under the CNMI Operation Homefront.

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Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Nov. 26, 1999

PDO fears crackdown on FAS citizens

The Public Defender's Office has assailed what it said start of deportation proceedings by the Department of Labor and Immigration against citizens of Micronesia and the Freely Associated States. According to Robert T. Torres, assistant public defender, DOLI officers acted in bad faith when they convinced his client in a criminal case, Steve Anson, to sign a stipulated deportation agreement based on prior convictions for two misdemeanors while detained at the Division of Corrections. Mr. Torres said he was not even informed by DOLI officers of the stipulation nor was he even provided a copy of the agreement which was filed in Superior Court and signed by Associate Judge Timothy H. Bellas.

Crucial legislation in limbo

With less than two months before the next Legislature convenes, several crucial legislation, including the budget bill, remain pending in either the House or the Senate and it is unlikely they will be up for voting just before current members adjourn sine die. But House Speaker Diego T. Benavente assured that although some lawmakers failed to get reelected, they will finish the task of enacting these proposed measures within the next few weeks. "I hope we can convince the Senate to pass as soon as possible these legislation pending with them," he told reporters in an interview. Mr. Benavente pointed out that in his years of being a House representative, he has not seen members of the "lame duck" Legislature leaving their work incomplete at the end of the session.

Nov. 26, 2001

AGO paves way for lower port fees

The Attorney General's Office has approved the suspension of the scheduled terminal tariff rate hike as well as the extension of the Airline Incentive Program, the Commonwealth Ports Authority disclosed Friday. CPA Board Chair Roman S. Palacios said that the suspension of the tariff increase in seaports and the extension of the discount program for airline companies flying Saipan are anticipated to help keep the local economy afloat. Palacios said that, prior to its approval, the AGO gave the public 30 days to comment on the proposal—the Emergency Regulation Suspending the Terminal Tariff Rate Increases, which was also filed before the CNMI Registrar of Corporation and the Office of the Governor.

Tenorio helps ensure smooth transfer of power

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio has instructed all agencies of the CNMI government to cooperate with the incoming administration's Transition Committee to ensure the smooth turnover of executive powers come January. Tenorio said he issued a memorandum on Friday to all department and division heads of government offices and semi-autonomous agencies, urging them to extend their fullest cooperation to the transition team. "Yes, I have already given instruction to all departments to accommodate and cooperate with the transition committee and to give them all the necessary data they ask for in aid of a smooth transition of executive powers," Tenorio said.

Nov. 26, 2002

Pohnpei, CNMI in trade talks

A nine-member delegation from the municipality of Kitti, Pohnpei—led by its King or Nanmwarki, Alter Paul—paid CNMI legislative leaders a courtesy visit yesterday that was warmly received by members of the House and the Senate. Lt. Gov. Diego T. Benavente, who facilitated the dialogue between local and Pohnpei leaders, revealed that one of the main objectives of the delegation's historic visit was to pursue long-standing talks on the possibility of direct trade between the CNMI and Pohnpei. Benavente sought the support of the Legislature in this endeavor. The Micronesian delegation consisted of the Nanmwarki, his wife, Aiko, Kitti Mayor McGarry Miguel, FSM Senator Onlino Lawrence and others.

Babauta: MPLA board may be liable for over \$8M bank deposit

Members of the Board of Directors of the Marianas Public Lands Authority may be found liable for authorizing the deposit of over \$8.8 million at the financially distressed Bank of Saipan, according to Gov. Juan N. Babauta. This, amid findings that such deposit is now considered nonexistent. "The money is not there. So it's questionable whether the MPLA can take its money back even now that the receiver has made everybody a priority except the government," Babauta said in an interview. But putting that aside, the Governor said the board could also be questioned when it decided to deposit its money in the bank, which is not FDIC insured.

Faisao: No disabled, mentally ill at Juvenile Detention

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Melvin Faisao has belied claims that the Kagman Juvenile Detention and Correctional Facility houses individuals with developmental disabilities or mental illnesses.

In his declaration, issued Monday and filed by the Office of the Attorney General in the U.S. District Court for the NMI

on Tuesday, Faisao said the Juvenile Detention Unit does not currently keep any individuals with developmental disabilities and with mental illness and has not done so during his tenure as DCCA secretary.

Faisao's declaration supports his motion to dismiss the lawsuit filed against him by the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc.

NMPASI sued Faisao after the Juvenile Detention Unit al-

legedly denied it full and timely access to the facility. NMPSI has alleged that it has one client detained at the Juvenile Detention Unit that has asked for NMPSI's services.

NMPASI asked the federal court to declare Faisao's policies, regulations, and practices in denying access to JDU facility and its residents a violation of the Protection and Advocacy for

Mentally Ill Individuals Act of 1991, the Developmental Dis-

abilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act, and the Protection and Advocacy for Individual Rights Act.

In his declaration, Faisao noted that JDU is under the federal court's supervision by way of a consent decree between the U.S. government and the CNMI government.

Faisao said a Juvenile Detention Unit employee was arrested on June 11, 2010, for allegedly coercing a child housed at the

JDU to engage in sexual acts.

"I was very disturbed to learn of this arrest and the underlying allegations," he said.

He disclosed that the U.S. Department of Justice through the consent decree coordinator indicated that DOJ is contemplating "unusual remedial actions," but first wanted to review internal actions by Juvenile Detention Unit authorities to address allegations of staff misconduct.

"That review is ongoing," Faisao pointed out.

As a result of the arrest, he said all JDU personnel have been trained on the requirements of the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003.

Assistant attorney general David Lochabay, counsel for Faisao, said the court should dismiss NMPASI's lawsuit with prejudice. Dismissal with prejudice means the plaintiff could not re-file the case anymore.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Zoning officials on Marianas Agupa

Tomorrow, Nov. 27, 2010, the Chamorro talk show program Marianas Agupa will feature Herminia Fusco, chairperson of the Zoning board, and Douglas Wyatt, Zoning administrator, who will discuss the business friendly policies of the Zoning Office and its community outreach campaign. The show is from 10am to 10:30am on Magic 100.3 FM. The program is hosted by Glenn H. Manglona. It will feature reports by former mayor Joseph S. Inos, a special report from Rota by Thomas D. Mendiola Rota and a report from Tinian by former senator David M. Cing. Simultaneous Internet streaming via www.magic100radio.com will be available. (PR)

Beautify CNMI sets last meeting for 2010

Beautify CNMI! will be having its final meeting of the year on Dec. 2, 2010, at 5:30pm, at the NRCS office in Garapan (just south of the Naked Fish Restaurant on the ground floor of the three-story white building) The agenda will include reconnecting Beautify CNMI and its partners with Marianas RC&D; status update on plans for incorporating; Bridge Capital donation; and year-end wrap-up and make plans for 2011 kickoff meeting. The highlight of this meeting is to present the opportunity to sign an MOU with Marianas

RC&D that would create a partnership mutually beneficial to all Beautify CNMI! partners. (PR)

CCAC board sets meeting

The board of directors of the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture will have a

special meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 1, 2010, at 1pm in the CCAC Gallery. (PR)

MHS calling on all its alumni

MHS is calling all previous (alumni) students to come and pick up their school records, which include their high school

transcripts and other confidential files.

All graduates from 1965-2002 must pick up their student records before Jan. 7, 2011. All records not picked up will be disposed of accordingly.

After Jan. 7, 2011, MHS will only keep records for seven years. Beyond the seven years,

MHS will only issue graduation certification for students. Call the registrar at 237-3205 for further information. (PR)

CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities closed today

The CNMI Council on De-

velopmental Disabilities Office will be closed today, Nov. 26, 2010, due to the austerity Friday. The office will return to its normal hours the following week. For more information, contact CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities Office at 664-7000/7001/7002. (PR)

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Opinion

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EDITORIAL

Shellshocked by N. Korea

Such Middle Eastern trouble spots as Iran and Afghanistan get most of the attention in this country, but North Korea is determined to demonstrate that it is the world's biggest threat to stability. The Obama administration has few good options for dealing with Pyongyang's reckless regime, but the North's shelling of a South Korean island on Tuesday, among the most outrageous of its provocations since the end of the Korean War, shows that the region must be at the top of the diplomatic priority list.

To outside observers, the behavior of North Korean leader Kim Jong Il often seems bizarre. After the North escalated tensions to a height seldom seen in decades with its reported sinking of the South Korean warship Cheonan in March, the U.S. and South Korea responded by ending economic assistance and stepping up military readiness. A rational response to the economic sanctions that are strangling the country would be to end them by de-escalating, but punishing Kim only seems to make him more aggressive. North Korean officials recently showed off a worrisome new uranium-enrichment facility to a visiting American scholar, raising fears that the regime's nuclear capabilities are growing. And Tuesday's artillery fire is believed to have killed two South Korean soldiers and injured several more, as well as wounding three civilians.

Close observers, though, see a logic to Kim's madness. Attacking South Korea burnishes the leadership and military credentials of Kim's heir apparent, his son Kim Jong Un. Meanwhile, long experience has taught Pyongyang that aggression can be rewarded; when sticks don't change the regime's behavior, the international community sometimes resorts to carrots, hoping that food aid, closer economic ties or the lifting of some sanctions will improve cooperation. The strategy occasionally even works—until it doesn't anymore.

The top U.S. priorities, now as ever, are to avoid a resumption of all-out war and to prevent North Korea from increasing its nuclear arsenal. But how can that be done when neither sanctions nor rewards seem to have any impact? Experts have been wrestling with that question for decades without coming up with satisfactory answers. Most acknowledge that the key to a breakthrough is China, North Korea's patron. Yet Beijing seems far more interested in keeping the Pyongyang government stable, in order to head off a refugee crisis on its border, than it is in Kim's saber-rattling.

Some analysts think North Korea's goal is to draw the U.S. back into nuclear talks in hopes of winning concessions. Instead, President Obama is probably better off talking to China and Russia in an attempt to find strategic common ground. If there's a way out of this mess, it lies in diplomacy rather than military force.

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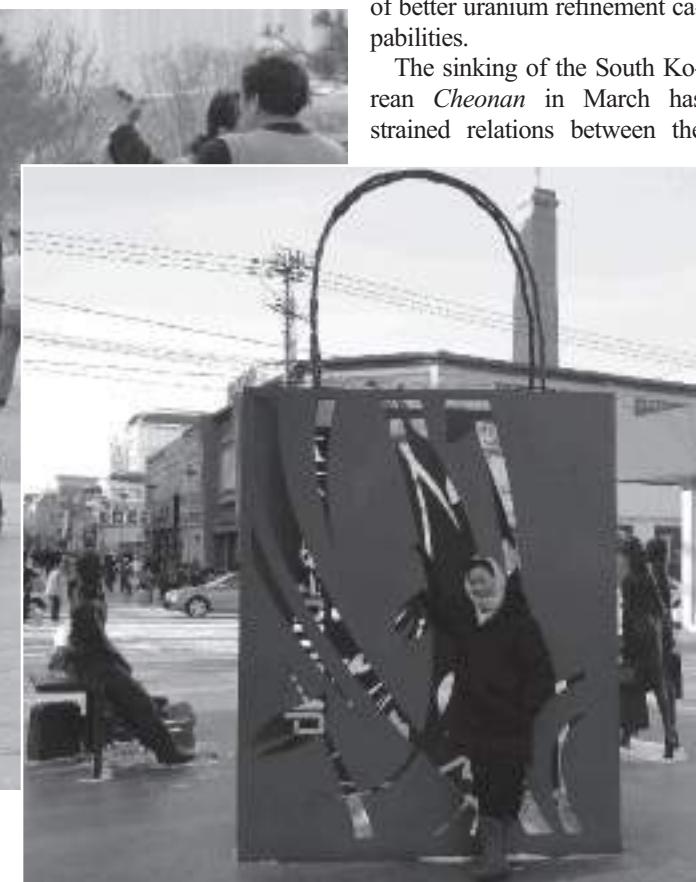
Dong Bei Trek 9: Black Friday mi Amur

The day after Thanksgiving comes Black Friday, a frenzied shopping day in America, thanks to the numerous Chambers of Commerce who decreed it to be so. It is autumn sale day, the unveiling of winter lines and Christmas shopping.

In this former frontier town of Heihe in Manchuria, Friday is a normal day of opening shops for the Russian tourists who are not plentiful this time of the year. (Inset photo shows an undaunted shopper posing by the shopping bag sculpture along Heihe's pedestrian mall.) The wintry weather with chilly winds blowing south from Siberia and the inner Mongolian grasslands has kept temperatures below zero since we got here.



JAIME VERGARA
Dancers in the Park. Man'amko swoon to ballroom music in Dong Bei's Shi Li Ta Gong Yuen, as a shopper (inset) in Heihe's walking mall rests by a shopping bag sculpture before proceeding with her own footwork.



two Koreas, refocused the faulty designation of islands only 10 miles from the North but 100 miles away from the South as belonging to the South because the 38th parallel division was not properly defined in its sea coverage. That and the primacy of U.S. command in South Korea continue to irritate the North, China, and Russia.

The rattling of military sabers hardly expected of an Obama White House—lending credence to former career officer turned

See DONG on Next Page

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune



Regular opinion page contributor Jaime R. Vergara joined the Beijing-Saipan inaugural flight late January and has sent reports of interest to the CNMI from locations in China where current CNMI residents are from.

Korean islands bordering the North. This comes tragically after the United States revealed anxiety over North Korea's announcement of better uranium refinement capabilities.

The sinking of the South Korean *Cheonan* in March has strained relations between the

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Commodities, Part II: The Kowloon memo

Last week, in Part I of our commodities drama, you were appointed President of the Saipan Betel Nut Corp. which is teetering on the brink between success and failure because of the volatility in betel nut prices. Now, in Part II, we go to Kowloon, Hong Kong. Here in Kowloon, we have found an internal memo from the Hong Kong ABC Fortune 88 Lucky Betel Product, Co., Ltd., makers of the famous "Betel Bright!" toothpaste. Here's the English translation:

Memorandum

From: Mr. Gao, President
To: Mr. Zhong, Buyer

As you know, our "Betel Bright!" toothpaste has been a commercial success. We are scheduling production, marketing, and distribution for next year's operations, so we need to figure out how much betel nut we will be buying.

I have been told that there is a promising new operation, the Saipan Betel Nut Corp., that will have 100,000 pounds of betel nut ready for harvest next year. Perhaps they can be one of our suppliers, so I am sending you to Saipan to look into this.

You may recall that Saipan enjoyed a brief stint in the tourism limelight until its incompetent economic administration collapsed its fortunes.

However, I am told that there is still electricity (usually) and running water (sometimes) on the island, so I hope that your upcoming trip there will not be too uncomfortable.

We understand that the Saipan Betel Nut Corp. is facing financial problems. This is unfortunate, since the samples of betel nuts that our agents managed to acquire have been of excellent quality.

As you know, we oftentimes invest in our suppliers in order to facilitate the continuity of our supplies. However, under the advice of our bankers, we will not invest in Saipan.

I would also like to invite your attention to another problem: Price volatility in betel nuts.

The price volatility makes it impossible for us to plan effectively. For example, if betel nut sells at or below \$9 per pound, our most profitable strategy entails buying 2 million pounds of it next year from our global array of suppliers, which translates into making 20 million tubes of "Betel Bright!" toothpaste.

By contrast, if betel nut sells at \$12 per pound, we will only want 1 million pounds, and will only produce 10 million tubes of "Betel Bright!"

As you know, we must plan our operations far in advance, because we must order related ingredients like sorbate, di-ethyl-doodah, and mono-mono gluco-gluco. We also must order toothpaste tubes, product boxes, shipping boxes, retail displays, and so on.

But how much of this stuff should we order for next year's production? Enough for 20 million tubes of "Betel Bright"? Or only enough for just 10 million tubes? Or some intermediate amount? Nobody knows. If we buy too many supplies, it hits our profits. If we buy too little, it also hits our profits, since we must pay higher, last-minute prices to get the supplies we need.

As you can see, the uncertainty over next year's betel nut prices cascades through our financial decision-making process: It creates

By ED STEPHENS

Special to the *Saipan Tribune*

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at TropicalEd.com. Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday.



planning difficulties and ultimately reduces our profits.

If you can solve this problem, I believe we can offer you a promotion to our largest division, "Fruit Bat Delight" canned soup. You'll get a corner office at our Geneva, Switzerland branch and full use of the company jet.

Anyway, first things first: Your point of contact at the Saipan Betel Nut Corp. is the company's new president, Mr. Tribune Reader. We have arranged a liaison to act as your guide and interpreter, her name is Naomi and she is fluent in Cantonese, Mandarin, and English. In fact, you may recognize her; she was the model for our "Betel Bright!" television ad campaign last year, which was filmed on Micro Beach. I trust that her beauty will not distract you from your professional duties. Good luck.

■ ■ ■

Join us next week for Part III, the exciting conclusion of our betel nut adventure. Will Mr. Zhong get his promotion? Will the Saipan Betel Nut Corp. survive?

And what about Naomi?

Letter to the Editor

A social ministry misunderstood

For years I have been writing letters to the editor and it is only recently that I realized that some readers really don't understand why I write these letters and why they are so important. I have often referred to myself as an activist but many of my letters have been more of a social message on the critical and tough challenges we face because the general public needs to be educated on what they are facing – something I view as being very important in any society and very few were doing it when I started writing in 1990s.

I didn't come to the CNMI with the intent to become a public person and to write letters in the news. I came with a simple creed to fulfill: to live for God, my family and to contribute to the CNMI society. I thought that I would just go to church, teach and do a few things at church and in the community and that would be it. But just like a priest or minister, I was somehow compelled or even called upon by God to be active and to speak out. For some reason it also feels like I have prepared my whole life for what I'm doing, especially growing up in the Civil Rights Movement which has given me the experience, fortitude and the edge to endure the attacks.

I felt that I owe this explanation, given the hundreds of letters I have written and the comments I have read about my letters. I hope this will help readers better understand why I'm writing and why they should be trying to hear the message instead of trying to kill the messenger. We don't get upset at the pastor or priest when he talks about our mistakes, bad judgment, and what we need to do, but when I say the same things that apply to real life, I'm put on a public wall and critics have tried to literally stone me to death.

I know that my language is always strong in my letters but readers need to realize that serious issues should never be sugar-coated or presented in a nice manner because the true seriousness of the matter is diluted. I want the same thing for the CNMI that most indigenous people want and I have only been trying to help them find it through my messages of education on the issues. Too bad I'm not local or the CNMI might be in a much better position, given some of my letters of advice that would have been acted upon instead of ending up in the trash like my warning about the garment industry. I will NEVER let the CNMI society forget that one because our economy didn't have to nosedive if the powers-that-be had just listened to me.

One day it will sink in that knowledge and wisdom have no face, race or color and anyone can give good advice. The Bible even tells us we can learn from our children and the ants so what does tell you about the education I have offered? Being an educator for over two decades, I have recognized the general public in the CNMI needs the type of education that I have offered but because I'm not from here my message falls on many deaf ears. I actually conducted an experiment to prove the prejudices that exist toward outsiders when I created Mr. Juan Jesus Agulto to write letters that I would normally write. I'm sure most people know what happened: The comments to Juan Agulto's letters were respectful and nice until the cyber rats

realized it was me.

Many readers are under the illusion that I am writing for myself and for some kind of self-glory but I hope this will clear the air because I have been writing to educate and to try and help everyone in the CNMI to live in harmony and to have a higher quality of life, which I'm sure was the whole purpose of becoming part of the American family. So the next time the cyber rats and other haters of outsiders want to criticize me for simply trying to help with my social message, they need to remember and realize that the local people asked to become part of MY American family, not the other way around. I'm not perfect but my intentions are honest and true. I know locals will agree there is nothing wrong with trying to live up to the principles and values of America. The problem is many people didn't know that it could be so challenging when they joined the American family.

To put it simply, we are simply facing growing pains, much like a teenager who refuses to listen to their parents' advice and has to learn the hard way—advice the feds and I have been trying to give locals for years, only to realize we were right years later when it's too late. Heck, we just got a seat in Congress and it is obvious to me that voters really haven't learned how to play the political game in Washington but I will save that story for another time. Many have offered me appreciation for my letters, which has been a humbling experience that also gives me strength to continue, even though our society is not listening as a whole. Just like in Mass, some are just there but they don't practice what they are taught once they leave the building.

Ambrose M. Bennett

Former BOE teacher rep

DONG

From Page 1

Boston U international relations' professor Andrew Bacevich's claim that the President is not standing up to his Pentagon handlers—has kept the 6-nation roundtable on the Korean Peninsula from reconvening.

The Marianas is not spared of the policy effects as well as rumors that accompany this tension. When North Korea tested its missile capability beyond range of Japan in 2005, two of my students at San Vicente Elementary School were absent from class, and came the following day with the excuse that they were kept home because their family believed that North Korea was going to bomb Guam the day before! North Korean missile tests in 2009 were summarily condemned by the U.S. as well, when the balance of delivery capability and the magnitude of ordnance's destructiveness is weighted disproportionately in favor of the South.

But the world, except the U.S., and the HK Hang Seng Index, have weightier concerns. The collapse of the Ireland economy necessitating a bailout plea to the EU is an ongoing concern, particularly on the issue of who will pay for the bill. The Irish debacle is a case of the banks running out of funds after the burst of the real estate bubble, and losing the bankers' cravats not to public sector mismanagement but to private sector's unregulated machinations. Greece has an admirable but overextended social welfare program and also an endemic Mediterranean tradition of corruption in the public sector. EU bailed out Zorba's Greece, and the Euro is expected to do the same with Ireland. Everyone pays.

The burst of the housing bubble similarly occurred in the U.S. save that the bankruptcy of financial institutions was driven by questionable derivatives, insufficient capital, ill-secured loans and

unmitigated greed. A bloated unadjusted defense budget supporting two unpopular war fronts that doubled in size in a decade does not help. Mr. Obama's government of change floated on business-as-usual in Washington leading to the lopsided results of the midterm election as the party of "No" overwhelmed the intents of the hopeful but lackadaisical advocates of "Yes." To stem the oversupply of U.S. currency necessitated domestic anti-inflation measures, practically devaluing the dollar that has sent tremors in foreign currency exchanges.

China is protecting its domestic economy by containing food prices, an astute political move. Public works continue to support the construction efforts (particularly highways, rails, and metros) but private sector housing is at a standstill, evident in many hollow high-rise structures in virtually every location. Lower end new China domestic investors are anxious about their home loans, and overseas condo/apartment buyers will dry up if already paid up sales are not delivered. If ecology has made it clear that we all live downstream and downwind, it is equally clear that when Bernanke goes *fang pi* (you do not want that translated), the rest of the world gets constipated.

As red is the color of celebration and white the color of grief, black in China is just plain solid ordinariness, so this Friday, *Dong Bei* dancers in parks and department store fronts from Dalian to Heihe line up and do their footwork that has been done for ages to drums and strings, with colorful fans a-swirling in their hands. In the shadows of the Tawan stupa in Shenyang, *man'amko* gather every afternoon to do ballroom dances (Mao banned the tango but it is coming back; note accompanying photo). Moneyed sets disco at SOS, while more proletarian adults doe-see-doe ala Texas Pan Handle line dancing in their boots.

I am headed to the Amur River promenade to dance with the Russian bears.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲87° ▾77°

▲87° ▾77°

▲87° ▾77°

▲87° ▾77°

▲87° ▾77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Sunny	▲87 ▾80
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▾78
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▾76
Chuuk	Showers	▲83 ▾78
Pohnpei	Rain	▲84 ▾73
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	▲91 ▾74
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲83 ▾75

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲72 ▾61
Beijing	Sunny	▲47 ▾25
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲75 ▾65
Honolulu	Windy	▲83 ▾72
London	Mostly Sunny	▲36 ▾28
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲64 ▾39
Manila	Thundershowers	▲85 ▾79
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲76 ▾64
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲82 ▾68
New York	Showers	▲45 ▾41
Osaka	Sunny	▲57 ▾45
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲37 ▾27
Pusan	Sunny	▲53 ▾39
Rome	Rain	▲57 ▾41
Salem	Showers	▲41 ▾38
San Francisco	Sunny	▲57 ▾42
Seoul	Sunny	▲42 ▾32
Tokyo	Showers	▲63 ▾50
Washington, DC	Showers	▲51 ▾48

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
4:31 AM	Today	Low Tide: 0.4 Feet
11:53 AM	Today	High Tide: 1.9 Feet
5:24 PM	Today	Low Tide: 1.3 Feet
9:43 PM	Today	High Tide: 1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	6:24 AM	5:44 PM	Today	9:58 PM	10:11 AM
Saturday	6:25 AM	5:44 PM	Saturday	10:56 PM	10:59 AM
Sunday	6:25 AM	5:44 PM	Sunday	11:53 PM	11:44 AM
Monday	6:26 AM	5:44 PM	Monday		12:27 PM
Tuesday	6:26 AM	5:45 PM	Tuesday	12:49 AM	1:10 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

■ ISLAND SNAPSHTOS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.

■ BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.

■ BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.

■ SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

■ TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

■ CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

■ Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.

■ Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).

■ Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.

■ Photos must have been taken in the last two months.

■ For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

■ Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

■ Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

■ E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.

■ Fax: (670) 235-3740

■ Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950

■ Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center,

Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan

To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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■ The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.

■ For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 17, 2010

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 17, 2010

DEPARTURES			ARRIVALS				
SAIPAN-GUAM			GUAM-SAIPAN				
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily	C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6	C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily	C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily	C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN				
DL287	6:10am	8:45am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL285	6:40am	9:15am	Daily	DL286	3:50pm	8:25pm	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily	DL288	8:00pm	12:30am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN				
0Z608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5	0Z607	9:10pm	2:20am+1	4, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN				
0Z604	2:10am	6:00am	1	0Z605	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
0Z604	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	0Z603	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
0Z606	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7	0Z603	8:10pm	1:30am+1</td	

Another NMC nursing graduate passes NCLEX on 1st try

Another nursing graduate of the Northern Marianas College recently passed the challenging National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses, or NCLEX-RN, on the first attempt. Maryliza Chata took the exam on Nov. 12, less than six months after she received her degree in Nursing.

After moving to Saipan four years ago from her native Philippines, Chata enrolled at NMC to pursue her dream of

becoming a nurse.

"My parents' inspired me to pursue nursing. My mom always dreamed of becoming a nurse, and then my dad died of a heart-related problem," said Chata. "This really convinced me to pursue nursing because I wanted to be able to help others, and make my parents proud."

Chata began preparing for the NCLEX-RN shortly before graduating from NMC in May 2010 and continued until the

day of examination in November. During the summer, she also attended an NCLEX-RN review course that was coordinated by the CNMI Area Health Education Center in collaboration with the Community Development Institute.

Maryliza not only passed the examination on the first try, but in record time as well," said NMC Nursing Department chair Rosa Tudela. "The NCLEX-RN is very challenging and criti-

cal to pass that's why we are amazed and proud that she finished in less than two hours."

The NCLEX-RN tests an individual's nursing knowledge, skills, and abilities essential to the safe and effective practice of nursing at the entry level. The exam is used by nursing boards in all 50 United States and all U.S. territories to award nurse licenses. Licensed nurses may have their credentials endorsed by a state or a territory's board upon meeting board requirements without having to retake the exam.

While Chata pursued her nursing degree at NMC, she was also actively involved the Nursing Club and served as the organization's public relations officer. As a member of the club, Chata participated in various community service activities, such as the CNMI Head Start



Northern Marianas College nursing graduate Maryliza Chata.

Lead Screening in 2009, Walk-On-Wednesday events, and the NMC Health Awareness Fair.

"My most memorable experience as an NMC nursing student was when a patient I used to care for recognized me at a public event," said Chata. "It made me really happy when he told me how much he appreciated the care I gave him; I really didn't expect that."

According to the long-time NMC nursing instructor Hervin Jacinto, currently 75 percent of the 2010 nursing graduates have passed the NCLEX-RN on their first attempt.

"We are very happy that many of NMC's nursing graduates are passing the NCLEX-RN," said NMC interim president Loraine T. Cabrera. "We also wish Maryliza the best in her endeavors toward a successful nursing career." (NMC)

ON COMPOSITION OF SHEFA BOARD

'Torres should have brought up issue before'

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan Mayor Donald G. Flores questioned the timing of William Torres' issues with the current composition of the Saipan Higher Educational Financial Assistance board, saying Torres should have brought it up when he was still the consultant for the program.

"Why didn't he correct the problem regarding the appointments of two board members early on?" asked Flores.

Torres, a former lawmaker, owns Marianas Pacific Network, which did consultancy work for SHEFA for about five years.

Torres' contract and that of Dris Student Services, another

long-time SHEFA consultant, were not renewed after expiring on Sept. 30 as the board had decided to hire an administrator for the program instead.

Torres had questioned the appointment of board members Maggie C. Camacho and Josephine T. Sablan to the SHEFA board during a recent session of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation.

Torres had argued that Camacho, who currently serves as acting chairperson of the board, cannot be confirmed to the position because of her "questionable" appointment.

Flores told reporters that he does not understand why Torres would only bring up the issue at this point.

"If [Torres] claims that Ca-

macho and Sablan are not part of the board, then why would he identify them as SHEFA board members in the letterhead and invite them during board meetings?" asked the mayor.

According to Flores, Torres' contention with the board's composition will have serious implications, including the legitimacy of previously held board meetings.

In the meantime, Flores said he has assigned his chief of administration and operations, Jeff Tomokane, to serve as acting administrator until such time that the board officially hires an administrator.

Flores also affirmed the board's decision to hire an administrator instead of a consultant.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

INVITATION FOR BID

CUC-IFB-11-008

Cross Island Road Improvements, Phase II-A, Power Poles & Lines Relocation, Papago, Saipan



The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the relocation of overhead power distribution systems along Cross Island Road in Papago, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The bid package may be picked-up at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A mandatory pre-bid meeting followed by a site visit, is scheduled for November 29, 2010 at 10:00 AM, local time, at the CUC Conference Room in the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, to ensure that the contractors are fully aware of the work involved and familiarize with the site conditions. All bidder are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidder due to lack of information or understanding of the project site conditions in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or performance of work under the contract.

One (1) original and Seven (7) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-11-008, Cross Island Road Improvements, Phase II-A, Power Poles & Lines Relocation, Papago, Saipan", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP. 96950, no later than December 09, 2010 at 10:00 AM, (CHST) at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury. A Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC. All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

The bidder is required to submit a copy of his CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page - <http://www.dol.gov/esa/minwage/cnmi/cnmi.htm>.

The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. Bidders will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (CHST) local time on December 3, 2010 to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email - msablan@cugov.net with a copy to Mr. John Onedera, Power Division Engineer - johnino@cugov.net and Ms. Janina Mika Muna, Admin. Support Assistant, Procurement & Supply - mika_muna@cugov.net.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ABE U. MALAE
Executive Director

CERTIFIED Used Cars

DEALS OF THE WEEK

**1 YEAR
FREE SERVICE**

WITH USED CAR PURCHASE

2007 Honda Fit STOCK # 7S025464 \$11,995⁰⁰	2007 Ford Escape XLS 2WD STOCK # 7KB45889 \$13,995⁰⁰	2008 Kia Sedona LX STOCK # 86261071 \$17,995⁰⁰
2003 Ford Focus ZX3 STOCK # 3R104315 \$7,995^{00*}	2005 Nissan Sentra SE STOCK # 6L514169 \$9,995^{00*}	2007 Ford Escape XLS 2WD STOCK # 7KB45887 \$13,995^{00*}
2001 Ford Crown Victoria STOCK # 1X16270 \$7,995^{00*} (SOLD AS IS)	2006 Nissan Sentra SE STOCK # 6L514169 \$11,995^{00*}	2005 Ford Mustang Coupe STOCK # 55122011 \$14,995^{00*}
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Council to ask \$200K for 2011 Flame Tree arts fest

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture is planning a grand celebration for the 30th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival next year, with the goal to bring back to Saipan delegates from all over Micronesia.

The council expects to spend \$200,000 to stage the event, set from April 18 to 24, 2011.

Council executive director Angel Hocog has already sent a budget request to the Legislature—five months before the festival.

Set at the American Memorial Park, Hocog said the festival will open with a series of workshops, trainings, and an emphasis on professional development on the economic impact

THE SEA'S BOUNTY

The crew of the boat *Joker* show off the 433-lb blue marlin and three mahi-mahi they caught last Sunday. The boat is owned by Josie Pineda and manned by Jeff, Annie, and Frank.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



of culture and tourism. It will conclude with an array of cultural displays and shows.

"The festival continues to grow, becoming to be one of the largest annual arts and cultural festival in the Micronesian region. We would like to see it flourish and transpire into an attraction that would bring more visitors to the CNMI. As a result, we hope to inform and educate the public of our unique cultural heritage," Hocog told lawmakers in his budget request.

"We believe that we can make this a reality. However, we cannot do this alone and it takes a lot of hard work and financial supports. Therefore, we are seeking the committee's financial support and assistance," said Hocog.

Based on his proposal, \$12,000 will cover the cost of ground transportation for the delegates. Hocog said they expect 12 groups from the Federated States of Micronesia and the Pacific region to take part in the event.

A total of \$40,000, meanwhile, has been earmarked for room rentals because one of the highlights of the festival is a three-day series of workshops and professional development training on the islands' economy, tourism, and preservation of indigenous heritage.

For the stage and sound system, the council proposes \$15,000, while \$6,000 will be for the use of additional manpower and security.

Another \$60,000 is budgeted for advertisements and promotions, which include flyers to hotels; supplies and materials, \$10,000; fuel, \$3,000; souvenir booklets and trophies, \$20,000; artists/vendors canopy, \$8,000; chairs and tables, \$3,000; portable toilets, \$5,000; trash collection, \$3,000; and meal coupons, \$15,000.

Hocog said the annual celebration will also enhance and promote the CNMI, by providing local hotels and travel agencies with translated flyers as well as translated signage banners and posters.

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* Ford Ranger total price \$17,995 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 10.25% APR for 60 monthly payments of \$307.62 or \$142 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred price \$18,457.20. Documentation fees and registration not included.



Feel the difference

Ex-Customs chief Mafnas confirmed to SHEFA board

Former Customs director Jose C. Mafnas was confirmed to the board of the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance by the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation.

On a unanimous vote Tuesday morning at the House of Representatives' chamber, Mafnas was chosen to replace former SHEFA chair Felicidad Oguimoro, who is now the vice speaker of the House of Representatives. The latter's term ended last Oct. 31 and Mafnas will serve her remaining term, which is until March 2011.

"I would like to thank the SNILD for their overwhelming support of my confirmation. I would also like to thank the public for their support. I would be remiss if I leave this place and not acknowledge the vice speaker and former chair for SHEFA. I know I'm filling in big shoes," said Mafnas in his acceptance speech after a break in the session.

The Revenue and Taxation official acknowledged the current challenges SHEFA is facing, but said he is willing to make the sacrifice for the students, which he said is the future of the CNMI.

Mafnas admitted that at first he had misgivings about accepting the nomination to the SHEFA board made by Saipan Mayor Donald Flores.

He said coming into the SHEFA board is like being thrown to the "lion's den" due to the controversies—whether real or perceived—the scholarship office has been involved in the past several months.

A couple of months back, a number of students who SHEFA denied assistance to complained about discrimination at the scholarship office.

Mafnas, however, disagrees with the discrimination accusation and said that it all boils down to SHEFA's limited resources.

"Reports of discrimination is really not true. From the last four meetings I attended it's not about that. It's all about funding. SHEFA scholarships rely on the number of poker machines. I have access to those figures and lately the number of poker machines have dropped 50 percent. We need to really look at that now because the pie is getting very small for our recipients," he said.

Mafnas joins the SHEFA board that currently consists of Maggie Camacho, Joe De Leon Guerrero, John Tenorio, and Josephine Sablan. They are expected to meet this morning to elect a new set of officers.

He said he is amenable for a two-year term once his current expires next year.

"If the mayor is satisfied with my performance then I would like to come back. I want to be a part of investing in our children's lives and ready to serve," he said. (Mark Rabago)



MARK RABAGO

Newly confirmed Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance board member Joe C. Mafnas, first row fourth from left, is joined by his wife and son, Saipan Mayor Donald Flores, and members of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation shortly after his confirmation Tuesday at the House of Representatives' chamber.



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INVITATION FOR BID NMHC IFB 2010-012

INVITATION FOR BID
NMHC IFB 2010-012

This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, hereby give notice that NMHC is soliciting sealed bids for the **SINAPALO CHILDREN'S PARK REVITALIZATION AND ENHANCEMENT PROJECT**, in Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Interested individuals or firms may pick up a copy of the Project Package beginning **Monday, November 22, 2010**, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, or at the Field Office in Songsong Village, Rota, during regular business hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday through Friday except CNMI holidays. Inquiries may be directed to Ms. Jocelyn S. Kaipat, Office Manager, at telephone numbers. (670) 234-6866/7689 during regular business hours or Mr. Mark Manglona, Rota Field Office Representative, at (670) 532-9410. A non-refundable payment of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) is required for each set. Payment shall be by cash, money order or cashier's check (payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation).

Bidders are advised that this project is subject to compliance with the Davis-Bacon Act and the Labor Standard Provisions for Wage Rate Determination of the Commonwealth. All labor on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate of \$4.55 per hour as established by Federal law or the U.S. Department of Labor General Decision No. CM100001 03/12/2010 CM1 superseded General Decision No. CM2008-0001, whichever is greater.

A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at **1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 30, 2010**, at the proposed project site located in Sinapalo, Rota, and all interested bidders will be given the opportunity to walk through the proposed site, familiarize themselves with the required work and ask questions regarding the project. Attendance at this conference and site visit are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director of the NMHC, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, or faxed to (670) 322-3547 no later than 4:30 p.m. local time, Wednesday, December 1, 2010.

Sealed bids must be marked **NMHC-IFB 2010-012**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950, not later than **10:00 a.m.**, local time **Wednesday, December 15, 2010**. Bids received after the date and time will not be accepted. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notice of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m.**, local time, **Wednesday, December 15, 2010**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **Wednesday, December 15, 2010**, and must be received at Procurement and Supply no later than **Wednesday, December 22, 2010**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan at **10:00 a.m.**, local time, **Thursday, December 23, 2010**. However, if no notice of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:30 a.m.**, local time on **Wednesday, December 15, 2010**.

A bid bond of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be in the form of a Certified Check, Cashier's Check, or Bid Bond made payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P.O. 500514, Saipan, MP 96950. Bid bonds must be certified by the Office of the Insurance Commissioner.

Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Laws 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with NMHC and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment Bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. Pursuant to Governor's Directive 251 dated March 15, 2006, bidders are required to include a Clearance from the Office of the Insurance Commissioner with respect to the financial bonding capability of the bidders' chosen Surety.

Performance time for completion of this project is one hundred fifty (150) calendar days. Liquidated damages will be assessed at Two Hundred Dollars (US\$200.00) per calendar day for delays beyond the established completion date.

This project is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) provided to the Commonwealth. This project is also subject to Section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968 which requires recipients of HUD funds and the contractors to help insure that the economic opportunities generated by these HUD funds are provided to local low-income residents and the businesses that serve them "to the maximum extent feasible."

NMHC hereby notifies bidders that it will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, women and small business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, creed, sex, religion, age, familial status, and disability status.

All documents received shall be the sole property of the NMHC with the exception of the Bid Bond, Certified Check, or Cashier's Check, which will be returned to the proposers after the acceptance and award of contract to the successful contractor.

The Government reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any defects in the said proposals, if in the sole opinion of NMHC, to do so would be in its best interest. All proposals will become the property of the Government.

/s/ Marcie M. Tomokane
Chairwoman & Contracting Officer

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, Division of Procurement & Supply

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REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS



This is to inform all Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC)-approved Contractors (including Tinian and Rota contractors) that we are currently updating our Approved Contractor Listing for calendar year 2011. In order for NMHC to extend your company's inclusion on our listing for another year, you must submit the documentations listed below. Those companies that are not on our list of approved contractors but wish to be included are likewise encouraged to submit the following:

1. Valid CNMI Business License
2. Current Financial Statements (certified by the principle executive officer and principle financial officer)
3. 2 Years Business Gross Revenue (BGR) Tax Returns
4. Clearance Letter from the Department of Labor
5. Certificate of Compliance from the Revenue & Taxation Office
6. Workmen's Compensation Policy
7. Name of Insurance Company(ies) Currently Dealing With
8. A list of on-going/ completed projects showing name of project, start and completion dates, and contract amounts
9. At least three (3) reference letters from owners of the completed projects
10. List of vendors and suppliers and at least three reference letters from them
11. Company background
12. Articles of Incorporation & Company By-Laws, if applicable
13. Annual Report (Registrar of Corporations)

FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE ABOVE DOCUMENTS BY DECEMBER 15, 2010 WILL RESULT IN YOUR COMPANY'S ELIMINATION FROM OUR LIST OF "APPROVED CONTRACTORS."

NMHC encourages Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises (MBE/WBE) to participate in this Request for Qualifications and that they will be afforded full opportunity to participate and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, creed, sex, religion, age, familial status, or disability status.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

/s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO

NMHC is an equal housing provider, lender and employer.

**TRIBUNE
DONATION**

Saipan Tribune sales associate Shawn Camacho, left, turns over old issues of the newspaper to Geri Willis, center, and Blaren Castro of the Operation CNMI Home-front Support at the *Saipan Tribune* office in Garapan. The old newspapers will be packed, along with local foodstuff and other gifts, that will be mailed out to CNMI service-members who are currently stationed in various parts of the world.

JAYVEE VALLEJERA



First lady to lead lighting of Susupe Christmas tree

Over the past week, motorists may have noticed increased activity in front of the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe as the First Lady's Vision Foundation and the Office of Women's Affairs began preparations to construct and decorate the 30-foot Christmas tree that now stands at the center of the parking lot. Now that the tree has been decorated and trimmed with holiday lights, first lady Josie Fitial is inviting

**Fitial**

the community to mark the beginning of the holiday season when she switches on the lights today, Nov. 26, at 6:30pm.

The First Lady's Vision Foundation and the Office of Women's Affairs also expressed their heartfelt appreciation to

the Department of Public Works and most especially to the Department of Corrections for providing a handful of hard-working inmates. The inmates were very happy to help with the construction of the tree and viewed it as an opportunity to give back to the community this holiday season. Aside from the tree-trimming, the parking lot stalls were also spruced up and re-painted. The giant Christmas tree is accompanied by a beautiful nativity scene.

"We're very pleased that the project is completed. We hope the community will find the spirit of the holiday season whenever they visit the tree," said the first lady. (PR)

EMO warns of large waves

Moderate trade winds are expected in the next few days and the public is being strongly advised to avoid venturing near exposed reefs and beaches, especially those along north and facing reefs, as rip currents are life threatening.

In a high surf advisory issued yesterday, the CNMI Emergency Management Office said it has received information from National Weather Service in Tyan, Guam, that combined sea levels will be near 7-9 feet today

but a large northeast swell will bring seas of 7-8 feet through Saturday.

The high surf advisory is now in effect until 3pm of Sunday.

"Surf will affect exposed reefs and beaches along north-facing coastline producing dangerous rip currents. Expect surf building to hazardous heights of 10-12 feet along north-facing reefs by sunrise. The surf should remain near these heights for the next several days," said the EMO in its advisory. (PR)

Marianas Bahá'í support UN activism to eliminate violence

AGANA, GUAM—The Bahá'í of the Mariana Islands invite the Guam community to join them in responding to the invitation by the new United Nations Office of Women to observe and support the 16 days of activism for the Elimination Of Violence Against Women from Nov. 25 ending on International Human Rights Day on Dec. 10.

"The UN is asking people to focus on the eradication of violence against women and girls," said Barbara Jamison, secretary of the Mariana Bahá'í. She said the UN encourages people to engage in discourses related to that topic and to the related topic of fostering the equality of men and women.

Jamison said this UN observance supports Guam's ongoing efforts to address family violence, such as with the recent Silent Witness observance. Other community efforts have included conferences, seminars, written papers, and individuals and groups engaging in developing thoughts toward improved policies.

Earlier this year, at a panel that took place as part of the 54th session of the UN Com-



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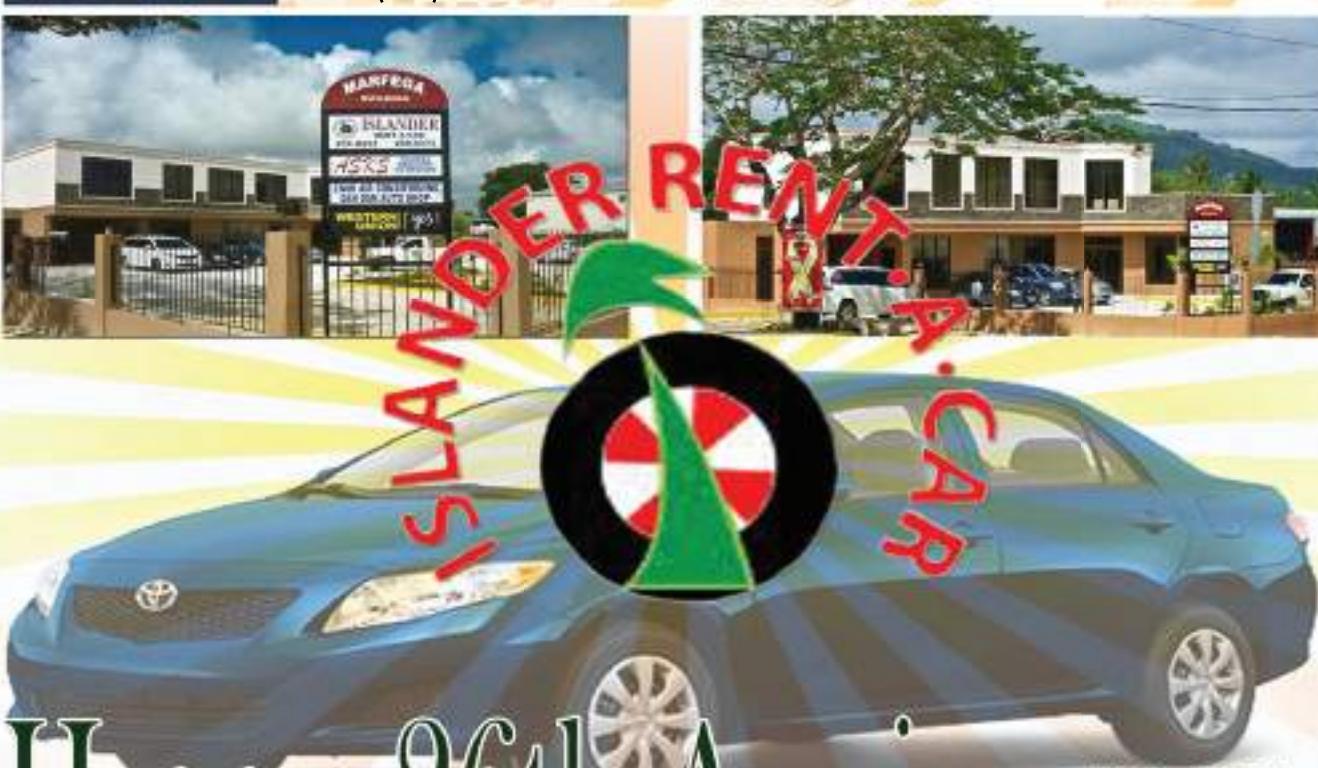
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NMC Honor Society inducts 19 new members



NMC
Northern Marianas College Phi Theta Kappa Fall 2010 inductees, members, advisor, and keynote speaker Justice John A. Manglona following their recent induction ceremony.

The Northern Marianas College Beta Lambda Psi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society celebrated the induction of 19 new members into the Society on Saturday, Nov. 6, 2010. Family, friends, NMC interim president Lorraine T. Cabrera, faculty, and PTK members joined in the festivities at Saipan Grand Hotel's Club V to honor the new inductees.

In order to qualify for membership in Phi Theta Kappa, students must distinguish themselves by maintaining a 3.5 cumulative grade point average, in addition to serving and contributing to the Commonwealth through various community service and leadership activities.

The 17 newest Fall members include students from the business, criminal justice, education, nursing, natural resource management, and liberal arts majors: Nadia Benjamin, Claire Cabrera, Elowena Camacho, Ian Carr, Hilma Marie Castro, Kyeong Bin Kim, Myung Ah Ko, Soohee Kwak, Jeong Hyun Kwon, He Jin Lee, Xiu Zhen Lizama, Joserin Mendiola, Katherine Mersai, Jan Michael Reyes, Sharisse Rivera, Antonio Tipples, and Hee Yong (Sophia) Yoon. Also welcomed into the chapter were two new provisional members: Beatrice Mesngon and Arisha Nishimura.

The induction ceremony was carried out by the current PTK officers president Glenn Songcuan, vice president Mindy Park, Recording Secretary Janel Pangelinan, membership secretary Albert Indalecio, treasurer Shannon Hofsneider, and faculty adviser Larry Lee.

The members selected Justice John A. Manglona as the keynote speaker for the event, and he inspired the audience with a very motivating keynote address. The formal induction ceremony was followed by a delicious buffet dinner.

An international organization, Phi Theta Kappa has recognized academic excellence, leadership, and service in two-year colleges since 1918. It is the largest honor society in American higher education with more than 1.5 million members and 1,200 chapters located in the 50 United States, U.S. territories, Canada, and Germany. Phi Theta Kappa's mission is two-fold: (1) to recognize and encourage the academic achievement of two-year college students; and (2) to provide opportunities for individual growth and development through participation in honors, leadership, service and fellowship programming.

For additional information about the NMC chapter, its membership, or activities, contact Songcuan or Lee. (NMC)

Tinian beaches get green flag

The Division of Environmental Quality analyzed water samples collected from Tinian's recreational beaches and storm water drainage this week as part of the regularly scheduled sampling. None of the samples collected contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria nor did they exceed the CNMI Marine Water Quality stan-

dards. Therefore, DEQ assigns all of the sampled beach sites a green flag.

The division analyzed a total of 10 samples from Tinian this week. DEQ welcomes all inquiries as to the quality of the beach water. The public is encouraged to contact DEQ at 664-8500 with any questions concerning this matter. (DEQ)

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WORLD PEACE DAY, NATIVE PEOPLES' DAY, THANKSGIVING

United Methodist Church combines 3 festivities for peace

The last two Sundays Immanuel United Methodist Church in Chalan Kanoa combined celebrations of Thanksgiving, Native American Sunday (and other countries' native peoples) and World Peace Day. This continued the world peace emphasis from the church's International Peace Day observances in September, with peace games on Sept. 12 and 19 and the non-political, non-religious Candlelight Peace Vigil on United Nations-proclaimed Peace Day, Sept. 21.

Lay leader Losana Rogoyawa said, "The past two Sunday's scripture, sermons and prayers were based on thanksgiving and dependency on God. And how dependent we are on each other—in our families, schools, communities, the world. Special prayers were said for Native Americans and people in other countries who had lost land and

dignity. Prayers from Sioux chiefs Black Elk and John Yellow Lark were read."

Pastor Millie Carroll centered Time With the Kids on America's most known First Thanksgiving. She said, "The Pilgrims were so thankful to God they'd survived their first freezing winter. And very grateful to the Native Americans who'd so helped them, especially with growing food in ways they'd not known. The Pilgrims also helped the Native Americans. As long as they helped each other, shared and depended on each others' abilities, most of life went well. When that ended, fighting began. We must always remember to appreciate each other's abilities and differences and how we depend on each other as we are depending on God."

During the September International Peace Celebrations the children had already answered



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Following their story time centering on Pilgrims and on Native Americans' way of sending messages by drum, Pastor Millie Carroll and Immanuel United Methodist children drum their Thanksgiving prayers to God.

that when one side isn't nice to the other and begins to fight, usually the other fights back and fighting goes on and on.

Carroll added, "A really fun

part was connecting the scripture 'God gives each of us talents' with how Native American kids, we're told, had new names added to theirs as their

talents and great acts were seen. So, the IUMC children chose names, helping each other with gifts they saw in each other. Some were: John Kang became

Helpful Sparrow; Helen Carhill, Happy Flower; Mary Jane Domingo, Skipping Fawn; Annel Ligaya, Jumping Deer. 'Time With the Kids' ended with closing our eyes for a moment to think what we most wanted to thank God for, then drumming it as a thank you to God on the big drum Mary and Mark Deal had made. The kids knew Native Americans sent messages to each other by drum so with their new names they drummed their prayers of thanks to God."

Immanuel United Methodist Church warmly invites readers to the all-age Advent Services beginning this Sunday. Worship services and Sunday School are 9am. IUMC in Chalan Kanoa is on Chalan Kanoa Drive (east of Town Center and Beach Road, near Mt. Carmel Cathedral). For further information, contact Millie Carroll at 322-6158. (IUMC)

Recognizing 26 years of service and excellence

We, at First Hawaiian Bank, congratulate

Islander Rent-A-Car in celebrating their 26th year
of service in the Northern Marianas Islands.

Your dedication to provide our island with the
best quality in car rental service has proven to be
the key to your enduring success.

With your contributions to the progress of the island
communities you serve, we look forward to a
brighter future that is sure to be realized.



Northern Marianas College tourism students and business instructor Larry Lee, fourth from right, take a group photo with NMI Museum of History and Culture executive director Robert Hunter, fourth from left, after the group's recent field trip to the museum.

NMC tourism students visit NMI Museum

Northern Marianas College students taking the Introduction to the Travel and Tourism course recently visited the Northern Marianas Islands Museum of History and Culture to experience and learn more about one of the CNMI's premier cultural attractions.

NMI Museum of History

and Culture executive director Robert Hunter led the students and NMC business instructor Larry Lee on a tour of the museum's exhibits. Hunter also shared interesting historical facts about the Pre-Contact, Spanish, German, Japanese, and Trust Territory periods in the CNMI's history.

"This type of hands-on experience really broadens our students' perspectives, especially as they learned so much about our unique cultures and how they were influenced by the various colonization periods, and about one of our exciting local tourist attractions," said Lee. (NMC)

\$1.3M for Virgin Islands wastewater projects

Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Insular Areas Tony Babauta inked yesterday a \$1,304,880 Capital Improvement Project grant to fund the U.S. Virgin Islands Waste Management Authority. Funding will assist the territory in advancing existing wastewater projects at the LBJ Force Main, the Bovoni Housing Sewer Line and the Weymouth Rhymer Sewer Line.

VIWMA project descriptions include overseeing the replacement of a deteriorating force main and ensuring new sewer lines are safely and efficiently connected to existing lines.

"I am pleased to be supporting the Virgin Islands and Governor deJongh's efforts to improve the island's wastewater infrastructure facilities that protect our public health

and the environment," said Babauta.

"Moving forward with this initiative ensures greater reliability, the safety of the community and reduces the possibility of future failures within the existing system," he added.

New project installations and upgrades are expected to be completed before the end of this year. (DOI)

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**BIBLE DRILL**

Grace Christian Academy held its annual Bible Sword Drill on Nov. 24, 2010, at the GCA auditorium. There were 15 contestants from 1st grade to 3rd grade who joined the competition. From right to left, 1st place Clark Birmingham, 2nd place Arvin Dayao, and 3rd place Robert Schorr.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**SPELLING BEE CHAMP**

Congratulation to Arvin Dayao for winning the Spelling Bee Competition held on Nov. 18, 2010 at the Grace Christian Academy auditorium. He bested 11 other contestants from first grade to fourth grade students who represented each class during the elimination round.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**FRESH GRADUATE**

PV2 Francis T. Castro graduated from A.I.T training from Fort Benning, Georgia on Nov. 19, 2010. Congratulations for all your hard work. Greetings come from your proud parents, Jeffery Castro and Sylvia Taitano, and family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to Elsa Yoshida, who's celebrating her special day today, Nov. 26, 2010! Greeting come from your friends and family.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Belated happy birthday to Dre E. Lizama, who turned 8 on Nov. 25, 2010. Greetings come from your mom, dad and families.

**PRE-TURKEY DAY BASH**

Victorious Christian Church held a pre-Thanksgiving celebration at Pau Pau Beach last Sunday. Pastor Brendon Perez leads the group.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONGRATULATIONS


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Business

ISLANDER RENT A CAR

26 years of providing the island with its car needs

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Islander Rent A Car, the famous local and woman-owned car rental company in the Marianas region, marks another important milestone as it celebrates 26 years of giving quality and affordable rental services on Saipan at its new location on Airport Road.

Since 1984, Islander Rent A Car has always endeavored to meet the car rental needs of the CNMI and Guam by providing people with reasonably priced rental cars and a pleasant experience.

Islander Rent A Car, formerly located next to Skyway Café along Airport Road, has moved to the new Marfega Building at the Airport Road intersection, which also houses its sister companies like ASKS Fashion & Salon.



Islander Rent A Car has moved to the new Marfega Building at the Airport Road intersection, which also houses its sister companies like ASKS Fashion & Salon.



ment in her husband's car rental business prompted her to establish Islander Rent A Car.

"When the business started in November of 1984, Saipan was very much underdeveloped. It wasn't easy," she said, adding that among the things she learned was to listen to customers' comments and suggestions.

"We treat our clients like family. You need to learn how to listen to your customers because they can make or break the business," she added.

Twenty-six years later, Is-

lander Rent A Car is now a force to be reckoned with in the car rental industry, securing itself a steady client base composed mainly of local residents.

According to Marfega, what differentiates Islander Rent A Car from other car rental businesses on island is the excellent service that their patrons experience, from car reservations to rental return.

"Islander Rent A Car maintains friendly relations with our customers. We try to accommodate their requests as much as we can.

We spoil them," she quipped.

While internationally known car rental businesses exist on island, Marfega maintains that the public continues to patronize Islander Rent A Car because the name has a native ring to it.

"More so when they learn that it's a woman and locally-owned company. Customers would approach me just to say that we will support your business because it's a local company," she added.

Since she has established their client base, Marfega said

that customers who visit other islands like Tinian, Rota or Guam still avail of their car rental services.

Marfega said the support they get from their customers motivated them to open branches and locations, adding that she plans to reopen their branch in Palau soon.

Aside from taking care of clients, Marfega also takes pride in treating her employees with respect and kindness.

"They are very dedicated, loyal, and trustworthy staff. The role they play with the company is very important," she said.

Through the car rental business, Marfega said she was able to bring her siblings to Saipan and Guam who eventually became involved in the success of the business.

Her sister Divine has been with the Saipan branch for 19 years. Marfega's eldest sister Naty is in charge of Rota while her brother Mario is responsible

for the Guam branch.

At 51, Marfega said she remains thankful to God for giving her the opportunity to help her family and her staff.

"Without God's grace, I wouldn't be able to achieve what I have. I hope He continues to bless me with good health so I can be with my children and grandchildren as well as keep on sharing my blessings to those in need," she said.

Marfega also expressed appreciation to all their customers for their continued patronage and support.

"My heartfelt gratitude goes out to all of them because they always remember that Islander Rent A Car is here and we will continue to be here for them," she said.

Get your car rental needs at Islander Rent A Car located at Marfega Building on Airport Road. For more information, call 288-0373.

Airport protest never takes off, few delays seen

CHICAGO (AP)—The big Opt-Out looked like a big bust Wednesday as most of the Thanksgiving travelers selected for full-body scans and pat-down searches chose to submit to them rather than create havoc on one of the busiest flying days of the year. In fact, in some parts of the U.S., bad weather was shaping up as a bigger threat to travelers' hopes of getting to their destinations on time.

For days, activists had waged a loosely organized campaign on the Internet to encourage airline passengers to refuse full-body scans and insist on a pat-down in what was dubbed National Opt-Out Day. But as of Wednesday afternoon, the cas-

cading delays and monumental lines that many feared would result had not materialized.

"It was a day at the beach, a box of chocolates," said Greg Hancock, 61, who breezed through security at the Phoenix airport on the way to a vacation in California. He was sent through a body scanner after a golf ball marker set off the metal detector.

His wife, Marti Hancock, 58, said that ever since she was in the air on Sept. 11, 2001, and feared there was a bomb on her plane, she has been fully supportive of stringent security: "If that's what you have to do to keep us safe, that's what you have to do."

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Alcoholic energy drinks to be off shelves in Dec.

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Food and Drug Administration says major brands of caffeinated alcoholic drinks should be off store shelves by mid-December. The FDA issued warning letters to four companies earlier this month, saying their drinks were unsafe. The agency said the combination of caffeine and alcohol in the drinks can lead to a "wide-awake drunk" and have led to alcohol poisoning, car accidents and assaults. The agency said Wednesday that Phusion Projects, maker of Four Loko, and United Brands Co., maker of Joose, are no longer shipping the products and expect them to be off store shelves by Dec. 13. Charge Beverages and New Century Brewing said they no longer are producing their alcoholic

energy drinks. At least four states have banned the beverages.

Feds set aside 'critical habitat' for polar bear

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Obama administration is setting aside 187,000 square miles in Alaska as a "critical habitat" for polar bears, an action that could add restrictions to future offshore drilling for oil and gas. The total, which includes large areas of sea ice off the Alaska coast, is about 13,000 square miles, or 8.3 million acres, less than in a preliminary plan released last year. Nearly 95 percent of the designated habitat is sea ice in the Beaufort and Chukchi seas off Alaska's northern coast. Polar bears spend most of their lives on frozen ocean where they hunt seals, breed and travel.

Happy 26th Anniversary

**ISLANDER
RENT A CAR**



From the management and staff of

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER



Nation

Jury convicts Tom DeLay in money laundering trial

By JUAN A. LOZANO
ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—The heavy-handed style that made Tom DeLay one of the nation's most powerful and feared members of Congress also proved to be his downfall Wednesday when a jury determined he went too far in trying to influence elections, convicting the former House majority leader on two felonies that could send him to prison for decades.

Jurors deliberated for 19 hours before returning guilty verdicts on charges of money laundering and conspiracy to commit money laundering in a scheme to illegally funnel corporate money to Texas candidates in 2002. He faces up to life in prison on the money laundering charge, although prosecutors haven't yet recommended a sentence.

After the verdicts were read, DeLay hugged his daughter, Danielle, and his wife, Christine. DeLay whispered into his daughter's ear that he couldn't get a fair trial in Austin. DeLay had unsuccessfully tried to get the trial moved out of Austin, the most liberal city in one of the most Republican states.

DeLay's lead attorney, Dick DeGuerin, said they planned to



Former House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, along with his wife, Christine, left, and daughter Danielle Garcia, leave the Travis County Courthouse in Austin, Texas on Wednesday, Nov. 24, 2010.

appeal the verdict.

"This is an abuse of power. It's a miscarriage of justice, and I still maintain that I am innocent. The criminalization of politics undermines our very system and I'm very disappointed in the outcome," DeLay told reporters outside the courtroom.

He remains free on bond, and several witnesses were expected to be called during the punishment phase of his trial, tentatively scheduled to begin on Dec. 20.

Prosecutors said DeLay, who once held the No. 2 job in the House of Representatives and

whose tough tactics earned him the nickname "the Hammer," used his political action committee to illegally channel \$190,000 in corporate donations into 2002 Texas legislative races through a money swap.

DeLay and his attorneys maintained the former Houston-

days of silence. Some bishops are even seeking clarification from the Vatican.

"It's a mess," said John Haas, president of the National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia, which advises church leaders, hospitals and Vatican offices. "I'm not ready to say that the pope said what (papal spokesman Rev. Federico) Lombardi said."

On a practical level, most Catholic-affiliated charities that minister to people at high risk of contracting AIDS are unlikely to make changes anytime soon.

Haas, also a moral theolo-

gian, said he fielded calls all day Tuesday from confused bishops. Benedict's comments come at a time when American bishops are focused on upholding Catholic orthodoxy on marriage and sexuality.

"It's important to recognize

this is not some blanket opening of the door for married people to use artificial birth control," said Mark Silk, director of the Leonard Greenberg Center for the Study of Religion in Public Life at Trinity College in Hartford, Conn.

In some heavily Catholic nations, church leaders have avoided discussing the matter. In Spain, Cardinal Antonio María Rouco Varela made no mention of the pope's statements

during a meeting of the Spanish Bishops' Conference.

When pressed by reporters, only Cardinal Carlos Amigo responded. Church leaders, he said, would have to read the book carefully first.

In the Andes region of South America, there appeared to be few mentions of the pope in news media, and his remarks were not mentioned in services at several Masses attended by Associated Press reporters.

The National Conference of Brazilian Bishops said it would not comment. Brazil has one of the world's most advanced anti-AIDS programs, and the government distributes more than 200 million free condoms each year, especially during Carnival.

area congressman did nothing wrong as no corporate funds went to Texas candidates and the money swap was legal.

The verdict came after a three-week trial in which prosecutors presented more than 30 witnesses and volumes of e-mails and other documents. DeLay's attorneys presented five witnesses.

"This case is a message from the citizens of the state of Texas that the public officials they elect to represent them must do so honestly and ethically, and if not, they'll be held accountable," Travis County District Attorney Rosemary Lehmberg said after the verdict.

Lehmberg said prosecutors will decide in the next few weeks what sentence they will recommend in the case to Se-

nior Judge Pat Priest.

DeLay chose Priest to sentence him rather than the jury. He faces five years to life in prison on the money laundering charge and two to 20 years on the conspiracy charge. He also would be eligible for probation.

Jurors, who left the courthouse right after the verdict was read, declined to comment to reporters, only saying that it had been a tough decision for them to make.

The jury had sent numerous notes to Priest during its deliberations, which began on Monday. Many of the notes asked various legal questions that at one point had prompted the judge to say the panel wasn't on the right track. But at the end of Tuesday, jurors had indicated they were making progress.

ACROSS THE NATION

Twin in suicide pact leaves Colorado hospital

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP)—An Australian twin who police say shot herself in the head at a Colorado shooting range as part of a suicide pact with her sister left a Denver-area hospital Friday. Candice Hermeler, 29, left Swedish Hospital in suburban Denver, said hospital spokeswoman Deborah Gosling, who declined to release further information. Hermeler had been in the hospital since the Nov. 15 shootings that wounded her and killed her sister, Kristin Hermeler. Their parents, Ernest and Kelsay Hermeler, arrived in Colorado last week. The sisters, from Australia's Victoria state, had been in the Denver area for about five weeks before the shootings at Cherry Creek State Park south of Denver.

Boeing: Foreign debris probably sparked 787 fire

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Boeing Co. said Wednesday that some kind of foreign debris probably caused the electrical fire aboard a test flight for one of its new 787s earlier this month. The company said it is making "minor design changes" to the plane's power-distribution panels and is working on a plan to resume test flights of the much-delayed plane. Boeing doesn't know what the foreign object was, because whatever it was burned up in the fire, spokeswoman Lori Gunter said. The Chicago-based company said its engineers believe the problem began as either a short circuit or an electrical arc in a power distribution panel, "most likely caused by the presence of foreign debris."

US jury convicts Somalis as pirates in Navy attack

NORFOLK, Va. (AP)—Five Somali men accused of attacking a U.S. Navy ship off Africa's coast were convicted Wednesday on federal piracy charges in what the government said was the first piracy conviction in a U.S. courtroom in nearly 200 years. The verdict was handed down by a jury in U.S. District Court. The five men, who wore earphones, stood silently as the verdict was read to them by an interpreter. They face mandatory life terms at a sentencing hearing set for March 14 in Norfolk. Attorneys for the five said they didn't fully grasp the trial, the charges or the verdict. Defense lawyers had argued the men were innocent fishermen who had been abducted by pirates and forced to fire their weapons at the ship.

Aust. deports US man convicted in wife's death

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—An American man convicted of manslaughter in his wife's honeymoon death was deported Thursday from Australia to the United States, where he is likely to face murder charges for the 2003 drowning. Gabe Watson, 33, boarded a flight from Melbourne accompanied by Immigration Department staff and Queensland state police officers, Immigration Minister Chris Bowen said. Watson had been in immigration custody since completing an 18-month prison sentence earlier this month. Australia, a staunch opponent of capital punishment, delayed his deportation until it received a pledge from the U.S. government that it would not seek the death penalty against Watson.

Conservatives at odds with Vatican over condoms

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)—Some Roman Catholics are confused. Some are angry. Others just don't believe the pope meant what it seems he said.

Days after the release of Pope Benedict XVI's comments that condoms can be justified to prevent the spread of HIV, there is widespread confusion about exactly what he was trying to say. The remarks have put some of the strictest defenders of church teachings in the awkward position of potentially disagreeing with the pontiff.

Many church officials worldwide have been conspic-



Pope Benedict XVI

uously silent. Some bishops are even seeking clarification from the Vatican.

"It's a mess," said John Haas, president of the National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia, which advises church leaders, hospitals and Vatican offices. "I'm not ready to say that the pope said what (papal spokesman Rev. Federico) Lombardi said."

On a practical level, most Catholic-affiliated charities that minister to people at high risk of contracting AIDS are unlikely to make changes anytime soon.

Haas, also a moral theolo-

gian, said he fielded calls all day Tuesday from confused bishops. Benedict's comments come at a time when American bishops are focused on upholding Catholic orthodoxy on marriage and sexuality.

"It's important to recognize this is not some blanket opening of the door for married people to use artificial birth control," said Mark Silk, director of the Leonard Greenberg Center for the Study of Religion in Public Life at Trinity College in Hartford, Conn.

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In Spain, Cardinal Antonio María Rouco Varela made no mention of the pope's statements

Holocaust survivors deal with purported \$42M fraud

NEW YORK (AP)—Walk along the boardwalk on a late autumn day, and Brighton Beach can seem like an old-age home by the sea, where stooped ladies wear rouge like armor and almost everyone lives in the shadow of a difficult past.

Along this Brooklyn outpost's ocean edge—the heart of much community life here—locals are talking about the betrayal they feel after the arrest of 17 people, mostly Brighton Beach residents, on

charges that they faked stories of Holocaust survival to profit from money meant for survivors of Nazi persecution.

"I cannot imagine that someone would lie like that; it's a terrible crime," says Klara Rakhlin, 72, her bright makeup stark against her black, coiffed hair as she speaks in Russian. "I lost my family in a concentration camp, and it's disgusting that people would get compensation although they haven't suffered."

Rakhlin was little more than

a toddler in 1941, when she entered the Pechora concentration camp in what is now Ukraine's Vinnitsa region. By the time she left in 1944, she was school-aged.

The arrests don't close the books on the purported scheme. The organization in charge of awarding the money continues to weed through hundreds more case files to see how much further any deception may have spread. Federal prosecutors say they have already uncovered

more than 5,500 fraudulent claims, many of them containing altered birth dates and faked stories of suffering.

Some people—overwhelmingly residents of this neighborhood and elsewhere in Brooklyn—have received letters informing them that they must either appeal or repay tens of thousands of dollars that the nonprofit group, the Conference on the Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, now believes were wrongly awarded.

Asia

SKorea boost security after NKorea attack

By HYUNG-JIN KIM and
KWANG-TAE KIM
ASSOCIATED PRESS

INCHEON, South Korea (AP)—South Korea's president vowed Thursday to boost security around islands near the site of a North Korean artillery attack while the North warned of more retaliation if the South carries out any “reckless military provocations.”

Seoul and Washington also increased pressure on China to use its influence on ally North Korea to ease soaring tensions that erupted after an exchange of fire Tuesday that left four South Koreans dead—including two civilians. China urged both sides to show restraint.

The North’s bombardment of a tiny South Korean island along a disputed maritime frontier has alarmed world leaders including President Barack Obama,

Military balance

Most of the active forces of both North and South Korea are stationed within 40 mi. (65 km) of the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ)



Personnel	North Korea	South Korea
Active duty	1.1 million	692,000
Army	950,000	560,000
Navy	46,000	68,000
Air Force	110,000	64,000
Reserves	4.6 million	3.0 million
Equipment		
Tanks	3,500	2,310
Submarines	26	14
Fighter planes	525	430
Missiles	About 50	310

Source: Global Security

Graphic: Pat Carr

© 2010 MCT

who reaffirmed plans for joint maneuvers with Seoul in the

Yellow Sea starting Sunday.
“We should not let our guard

down in preparation for another possible North Korean provocation,” South Korean President Lee Myung-bak said during an emergency meeting on security and economic repercussions from the attack, according to Yonhap news agency.

The U.S.-South Korean drills involving aircraft carrier USS George Washington, although previously scheduled, are sure to infuriate North Korea. The North made no specific mention of those exercises in its statement but warned that its military would “launch second and third strong physical retaliations without hesitation if South Korean warmongers carry out reckless military provocations.”

The North’s statement said Washington was to blame for South Korean artillery exercises earlier in the week near disputed waters which prompted the North to respond with

its artillery barrage on Yeongpyeong island Tuesday.

Washington “should thoroughly control South Korea,” it said. The warning was issued by North Korea’s military’s mission at the truce village of Panmunjom and was carried by the country’s official Korean Central News Agency.

The Obama administration urged China to rein in its ally

North Korea, with the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral Mike Mullen, saying, “We really think it’s important for the international community to lead, but in particular China.”

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao called on all sides to show “maximum restraint” over recent tensions on the Korean Peninsula and says his country opposes military provocations of all forms.



NEW MONEY

Philippines President Benigno Aquino III shows to media newly printed Philippine currencies of different denominations bearing his signature Thursday, Nov. 25, 2010 at the Malacanang palace in Manila, Philippines. AP

ASIAN BRIEFS

Thai king leaves hospital to open river projects

BANGKOK (AP)—Thailand’s King Bhumibol Adulyadej, who has been hospitalized for more than a year, has made a rare public appearance to open a new sluice gate and two bridges on Bangkok’s outskirts. The 82-year-old constitutional monarch was hospitalized on Sept. 19, 2009, with a lung inflammation. There has been no detailed explanation of his extended stay. His journey by boat to Samut Prakarn was the farthest he has traveled since being hospitalized. The king’s near-disappearance from public life has coincided with a period of political instability after a 2006 coup ousted Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra and polarized the country. The king has not played his traditional mediating role to heal the conflict, which has at times turned violent.

Indonesian cleric jailed for marrying 12-year-old

SEMARANG, Indonesia (AP)—An Indonesian Muslim cleric who sparked a national outcry by marrying a 12-year-old girl was sentenced Wednesday to four years in prison. Judges at the Semarang District Court said Pujiono Cahyo Widianto, 46, was found guilty of sexually abusing a minor. The

cleric, who also ran an Islamic boarding school and owned several businesses, hosted a lavish wedding in Central Java province in 2008 that was attended by thousands of people. He claimed at the time he hadn’t done anything wrong because he had no plans to consummate the marriage until the girl reached puberty.

Fear of bridge collapse set off Cambodia stampede

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP)—As a suspension bridge in the Cambodian capital swayed under the weight of thousands of revelers, some began to shout that the structure was going to collapse. Others pushed, heaved

and even jumped off the span as a panic took hold that ended in the deaths of more than 350 people. Though typical, the movement of the bridge terrified the festival goers—many of whom were in Phnom Penh from the provinces for the end of rainy season and were unfamiliar with such bridges, city police Chief Touch Naroth said Wednesday, citing a government investigation he took part in. Information Minister Khieu Kanharith said Wednesday the official death toll was 351 dead with 395 injured. But casualty figures have been a matter of confusion, with officials saying Tuesday that at least 755 people were hurt before walking that number back.

Robert Tenorio Torres
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Saipan, MP 96950

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Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff NKA: Monique Kramer:

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MONIQUE MILES nka: MONIQUE KRAMER,
FCD-DI Civil Action No. 07-0104B

Plaintiff, vs. NNAMDI A. MILES,
NOTICE OF HEARING ON PLAINTIFF’S MOTION FOR AN ORDER IN AID OF JUDGMENT FOR NON-PAYOUT OF CHILD SUPPORT.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on December 2, 2010 at 1:30 p.m., a hearing will be held before Judge Kenneth L. Govendo on Plaintiff’s Motion for Order in Aid of Judgment for non-payment of child support in the above-captioned matter, at the Superior Court for the CNMI, Guma Hustisia, Civic Center, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 19th day of October, 2010.

/s/ BERNADITA SABLAN
Clerk of Court

Name: Antonio and Tomoe Takai
P.O. Box 503473 CK
Saipan, MP 96950

Telephone No.: (670) 286-5202

pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In The Matter Of) FCD-AD-CIVIL
The Adoption Of:) ACTION
KT,) NO. 10-0569
Minor Child) NOTICE OF
By:) HEARING
Antonio and)
Tomoe Takai)
Petitioner (s)

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on December 6, 2010 at 1:30pm in Courtroom 205A, before the Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 17th day of November, 2010

Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court
/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

R Northern Mariana Islands RETIREMENT FUND

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT (JVA 11-001)

POSITION: BENEFITS TECHNICIAN II
OPENING DATE: November 26, 2010

LOCATION: SAIPAN
CLOSING DATE: December 13, 2010

The NMI Retirement Fund (“Fund”) seeks a professional individual to assist the Benefits Specialist in the creation and maintenance of manual and electronic files for the active, inactive, and retired members of the Fund. The successful applicant will be responsible for entering information and changes as requested by active, inactive and retired members of the Fund; will assist in the printing and verifying of all annuitant checks; and determine the accuracy of agency payments of member contributions to the Defined Benefit program. Preference will be given to an applicant who is knowledgeable in all current retirement laws, rules and regulations and policies related to benefit eligibility and benefit computation to perform the duties of this position.

Applicants must be a high school graduate or have successfully completed the GED program and have at least three (3) years of work experience in employee benefits or a related field. The salary range is pursuant to Pay Level 20/01, or \$14,388.82 per annum, to 20/04, or \$16,651.51 per annum. Regular employee benefits apply pursuant to established employment rules and regulations in effect.

Interested applicants must submit their application, educational credentials, police clearance and a valid ID by 4:30 pm on Monday, December 13, 2010. The complete Position Description is available from the Fund, located on Capitol Hill, Saipan; or by e-mail request to sablanci@nmiretirement.com. Mailed and hand delivered packages must be marked “JVA11-001 Confidential” and have applicant’s name and return address on the outside of the envelope. Please address submissions to:

Richard S. Villagomez, Administrator
NMI Retirement Fund
P.O. Box 501247
Saipan, MP 96950-1247
E-mail: administrator01@nmiretirement.com

R Northern Mariana Islands RETIREMENT FUND

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT (JVA 11-002)

POSITION: BENEFITS TECHNICIAN I
OPENING DATE: November 26, 2010

LOCATION: SAIPAN
CLOSING DATE: December 13, 2010

The NMI Retirement Fund (“Fund”) seeks a professional individual to assist the Benefits Specialist in the creation and maintenance of manual and electronic files for the active, inactive, and retired members of the Fund. The successful applicant will be responsible for entering information and changes to active, inactive and retired members of the Fund; will assist with printing and verifying all annuitant checks; and will determine the accuracy of agency payments of member contributions to the Defined Benefit program. The Benefits Technician I may be assigned to the Tinian and Rota Offices or the General Administrative Services section to provide client service assistance to the members of the Fund, Workers Compensation Commission and the approved group health and life insurance programs. Preference will be given to an applicant who is knowledgeable in all current retirement laws, rules and regulations and policies related to benefit programs to perform the duties of this position.

Applicants must be a high school graduate or have successfully completed the GED program and have at least two (2) years of work experience in employee benefits or a related field. The salary range is pursuant to Pay Level 18/01, or \$13,052.98 per annum, to 18/04, or \$15,105.87 per annum. Regular employee benefits apply pursuant to established employment rules and regulations in effect.

Interested applicants must submit their application, educational credentials, police clearance and a valid ID by 4:30 pm on Monday, December 13, 2010. The complete Position Description is available from the Fund, located on Capitol Hill, Saipan; or by e-mail request to sablanci@nmiretirement.com. Mailed and hand delivered packages must be marked “JVA11-002 Confidential” and have applicant’s name and return address on the outside of the envelope. Please address submissions to:

Richard S. Villagomez, Administrator
NMI Retirement Fund
P.O. Box 501247
Saipan, MP 96950-1247
E-mail: administrator01@nmiretirement.com

World

Mexico sending more troops to zone next to Texas

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Mexico will send more troops and federal police to try to control drug violence that has spiraled into warfare in parts of the northeast along the U.S. border, the government said Wednesday.

The goal of “Coordinated Operation Northeast” is to reinforce government authority in the two states most heavily

affected by a surge in violence following a split between the Gulf and Zetas drug gangs, federal police spokesman Alejandro Poire said.

The new effort also aims to keep the two cartels from regrouping after the takedown of key leaders, he said. But in a media briefing with all federal security officials and governors of Nuevo Leon

and Tamaulipas, the affected states, Poire provided no details or numbers of reinforcements and answered no questions.

Intense cartel violence has plagued the industrial city of Monterrey in Nuevo Leon and all of Tamaulipas, where cartel firefights and violence this month sent residents fleeing the once-picturesque tourist town of

Ciudad Mier and where 72 migrants were found slaughtered earlier this year.

Tamaulipas shares 560 miles (900 kilometers) of Texas border, with some of the busiest border crossings in the world—Nuevo Laredo across from Laredo, Reynosa across from McAllen and Matamoros across from Brownsville.

Gov. Eugenio Hernandez said his state has been a major transit corridor for organized crime since Prohibition, when the U.S. outlawed alcohol in the 1920s into the early ‘30s.

“But the situation has recently become much more complicated,” Hernandez said. “It’s greatly affected the dynamic of our state.”

Poire touted recent government blows against the two cartels, including the killing earlier this month of Gulf cartel leader Antonio “Tony Tormenta” Cardenas Guillen and the 2008 capture of a founding member of the Zetas, Jaime “The Hummer” Gonzalez Duran, who was sentenced for money laundering and weapons possession earlier this year.

Ambulance service: 4,200 Somalis killed in 2 years

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP)—The only ambulance service in war-torn Mogadishu said Wednesday that more than 4,200 bystanders have died in warfare the last two years, and a U.S. group that works to prevent civilian deaths said Somalia is more dangerous for civilians than Afghanistan or Iraq.

The seaside capital sees frequent barrages of mortars, rockets and artillery shells fired between Islamist insurgents like al-Shabab and pro-government forces who protect the sliver of land controlled by the U.N.- and U.S.-backed Somali government.

The head of the city's ambulance service, Ali Muse, said that pro-government forces from the African Union and Somali troops are to blame for the majority of the civilian deaths — about 80 percent.

“All of those victims are civilians killed either by stray bullets or hit by mortars or by artillery shells,” said Muse, who is the head of the Lifeline Africa Ambulance Service. “About 80 percent of them died at Bakara market, which is the main target of the African Union peacekeepers.”

Maj. Barigye Bahoku, the spokesman for the 7,000-strong African Union force in Mogadishu, said he could not comment

on the ambulance service report because he had not read it.

Human rights groups and Mogadishu residents have repeatedly accused the African Union of indiscriminately targeting populated areas of the city with artillery fire after insurgents fire mortars toward AU troops. Bakara is the most popular market.

The executive director of CIVIC, the U.S.-based Campaign for Innocent Victims in Conflict, said civilians bear the brunt of war in Somalia, Iraq and Afghanistan. But she said Somalia may be the most dangerous because neither side abides by obligations under international law to avoid civilian casualties, as U.S. and international forces in Iraq and Afghanistan are required to.

“Al-Shabab hides out in civilian markets, blasts the government or AMISOM (African Union) bases and then runs, so by the time AMISOM fires back, they’re already gone,” Sarah Holewinski said. “When AMISOM does fire back, they do so indiscriminately and often kill civilians. This despite rhetoric from AMISOM that they abide by international laws and never want to kill civilians.”

Holewinski said insurgents in Somalia, Iraq and Afghanistan

all put civilians in harm’s way. The African Union, in a rare admission of civilian casualties, apologized for the deaths of two Somalis after a convoy of AU troops opened fire on civilians Tuesday. Seven people were wounded.

The mayor of Mogadishu, Mohamed Nur, asked the AU for compensation for the shooting.

“We do not know exactly why disciplined forces like AMISOM are committing this gross violation on the lives of innocent civilians. It is deliberate attack against innocents,” Nur said.

The AU commander, Gen. Nathan Mugisha, apologized for the shooting and said the soldiers involved were arrested. Mugisha called the incident sad and regrettable but also isolated. He said the African Union force, which is primarily comprised of troops from Uganda and Burundi, is in Mogadishu to protect civilians and make the capital safer.

“We came here to help the Somali people to restore the peace and stability, but we did not come here to kill or wound any Somalis,” Mugisha said.

Holewinski said AMISOM appears to be taking seriously the threat to civilians but has not yet made the necessary practical changes to their operations.

WORLD BRIEFS

Released Egypt blogger to keep writing after jail

CAIRO (AP)—A recently released Egyptian blogger who served the longest prison term in the Arab world for his writings said Wednesday that jail was a “cruel experience” but his views remain unchanged. Abdel Kareem Nabil, known by his blogging name Kareem Amer, was arrested in March 2006 and convicted of insulting Islam and the president in his blog. He served four years in prison and was released on Nov. 16. Described by rights groups as a prisoner of conscience, Nabil was an outspoken secularist and sharp critic of conservative Muslims. He often lashed out at Al-Azhar—the most prominent religious center in Sunni Islam—calling it “the university of terrorism” and accusing it of encouraging extremism.

Chinese dissident crackdown shrinks Nobel turnout

OSLO, Norway (AP)—Only one of about 140 Chinese activists invited by the wife of jailed Nobel Peace Prize winner Liu Xiaobo has confirmed he will attend the prize ceremony in Oslo, according to an organizer of the guest list. Others have been stopped from leaving China or placed under tight surveillance amid a crackdown on dissenters following the prize announcement, several ac-

tivists told The Associated Press. Nobel officials said last week that none of Liu’s relatives were expected to travel to Oslo to collect the prize on Liu’s behalf. But his wife, Liu Xia, had invited scores of activists and luminaries to attend the Dec. 10 ceremony in an open letter posted online. Wan Yanhai, who fled to the United States in May after increasing official harassment of his AIDS advocacy group, is the only person on that list to confirm his attendance.

5 die in crash of Mexican cargo plane in Monterrey

MEXICO CITY (AP)—A Mexican air force cargo plane crashed at Monterrey International Airport on Wednesday, killing five military personnel, the Defense Department said. The plane went down after takeoff, the ministry said in a statement, but provided no other details about the accident. Milenio television reported that the plane crashed and exploded after the crew attempted an emergency landing shortly after taking off. Milenio identified the five victims as the plane’s pilot and co-pilot, navigator, electrician and mechanic. Speaking at a news conference in Mexico City, federal police spokesman Alejandro Poire presented the government’s condolences to the victims’ families.



PREFLIGHT EXAM

Members of the next expedition to the International Space Station, U.S. astronaut Cady Coleman, left, Russian cosmonaut Dmitry Kondratiev, center, and Italian astronaut Paolo Nespoli stand before their final preflight practical examination in a mock-up of a Soyuz TMA space craft at Russian Space Training Center in Star City outside Moscow, Russia, Thursday, Nov. 25, 2010.



is actively seeking qualified applicants for the following position:

Guest Relations Officer (Korean/Russian Market)

The primary responsibility for this role will be to communicate information designed to keep guests informed of resort programs, activities and tour options; serve as liaison between hotel and non-English speaking guests by serving as a translator of all tours and activities sponsored through the resort.

Two years work experience within the hospitality industry preferred; proficiency in Korean and/or Russian languages (oral and written) required. Must be able to work nights, weekends, and holidays.

Starting rate \$5.05 per hour plus benefits including medical insurance, duty meals, facility usage, food, beverage, and room discounts, educational assistance, paid holidays, and much more!

Qualified individuals are encouraged to complete an application or send a resume by December 10, 2010 to:

**Human Resources Department,
P.O. Box 502370
Saipan, MP 96950
Or E-mail: hr@picsaipan.com**

An Equal Opportunity Employer

Science & Technology

Rare Apple I computer sells for \$210,000 in London



Photo shows a sample of an Apple I.

LONDON (AP)—Its processor works 1,000 times slower than the Apple iPad, but the first ever Apple computer has sold for 425 times the price.

The Apple I, one of only 200 such models ever made, was sold Tuesday afternoon at Christie's auction house in central London for 133,250 pounds (about \$210,000.) It came with its original packaging and a signed sales letter from Steve Jobs, one of Apple Computer's co-founders and the current CEO of Apple Inc.

When the Apple I was in-

troduced in 1976, it was the only personal computer to come with a fully assembled motherboard, making it ready to use straight from the box—provided the user supplied a keyboard, power supply, and display, Christie's said.

It sold for \$666.66 and was available until it was discontinued in 1977.

Bidding on the Apple I came quickly, with the computer eventually going to Italian businessman and private collector Marco Boglione, who made his offer over the phone.

Marco's brother Francesco Boglione, who attended the auction in person, told The Associated Press that Marco's purchase was a testament to his love of computers.

"The first time I had heard of the idea of a personal computer, it was from Marco," Boglione said. He bought it "because he loves computers."

Present at the technology auction, which also included manuscripts, prints, and science-themed texts, was Apple Computer co-founder Steve Wozniak, who agreed to add an auto-

graphed letter to the lot.

He said the auction was a historic moment for his work, especially when sold alongside such other technological greats as an Enigma, the German code-making machine, and writings

of British mathematician Alan Turing, considered one of the founders of modern computing.

"Today my heart went out as I got to see things auctioned off like the Turing documents and the Enigma machine—and the Apple I," Wozniak told journalists after the auction. "It really was an important step, (even

though) I didn't feel that way when I designed it."

"I'm very delighted for the gentleman who purchased it," he added.

Boglione said his brother's newly purchased Apple I would likely be returned to working condition—and eventually join a collection of Apple computers.

TECH BYTES

Facebook moves closer to trademarking 'face'

NEW YORK (AP)—Facebook has moved a step closer toward trademarking the word "face"—at least in certain contexts. The company's 2005 application with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office received a "notice of allowance" Tuesday, which means Facebook now has six months to show that it uses the trademark and pay a \$100 fee, said Cynthia Lynch, administrator for trademark policy and procedure at the agency. Or, it can file for an extension for up to 36 months. Once that's done, the trademark can be approved or rejected. Even if it's approved, Facebook wouldn't have a trademark on "face" in every instance, only in online chat rooms and electronic bulletin boards for the "transmission of messages among computer users in the field of general interest and concerning social and entertainment subject matter," according to the Patent and Trademark Office's database

entry on the application. It oddly exempts uses "primarily featuring or relating to motoring or to cars."

TSA app tries to ease air travel pain

NEW YORK (AP)—It won't save you from "enhanced pat-downs," but an iPhone app from the TSA tries to ease the pain of air travel by offering guidance on prohibited items, security wait times and packing tips. Called My TSA, short for Transportation Security Administration, the free app lets users fill in the blank to ask if they can bring various objects through the airport security checkpoint. The app also lists wait times for security lines for U.S. airports, as submitted by users, shown either as a map or a list. Users can also search for specific airports. A recent check for "pie" yielded five results, showing that under the TSA's rules solid pies can be either checked or carried on, though they may be subject to additional screening. "Turkey"

was not found.

Apple sells 450K Beatles albums, 2M songs so far

CUPERTINO, Calif. (AP)—Apple says people snapped up more than 450,000 copies of Beatles albums plus two million individual songs during the Fab Four's first week on sale through iTunes. Apple Inc. says the best-selling Beatles album in the U.S. is "Abbey Road," and the best-selling individual track is "Here Comes the Sun." The Beatles Box Set, which costs \$149, is No. 10 on Apple's weekly iTunes top-10 list. The Beatles' music went on sale on iTunes on Nov. 16. Until then, the biggest-selling, most influential group in rock history has been glaringly absent from iTunes and other legal online music services. Apple struck an agreement after on-and-off negotiations with the Beatles' recording label, EMI Group, and their management company, Apple Corps.

Program might get overzealous in cleaning PC

By STEVE ALEXANDER
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

QUESTION: About a month ago, I noticed that my 2004 PC running Windows XP was taking longer to start up and connect to the Internet. On the recommendation of a local store, I purchased the Iolo System Mechanic Professional program to help speed up the PC. When I began installing the Iolo program, I was told to uninstall my anti-virus software first, which I did. But I also read online that I should delete some anti-virus components that might remain on the PC by altering the Hkey files, so I did. Then I installed Iolo.

Now my PC is slower than ever and I'm getting error messages about the check-disk function (Chkdsk) and about a file or directory on my hard drive that is corrupt and unreadable. What can I do?—Helynn Schutkowski, Eau Claire, Wis.

ANSWER: Your PC may be suffering from a flaw in Iolo's System Mechanic program, or from your altering of the Hkey files. Those files are part of the PC's registry, a database of computer settings that can cause trouble if altered incorrectly.

In a review of the Iolo program earlier this year, the Notebook Review website said Iolo "can run so many consecutive and powerful PC utilities that their combined effect might 'over-clean' your system and leave applications—or the PC—running improperly." For details, see <http://tinyurl.com/264ph6y>.

If the Iolo program is to blame, you might be able to reverse the changes it made via a rollback function in the software called "SafetyNet." For details, see <http://tinyurl.com/22s55e5>.

If the Hkey changes that you made are the

problem, try repairing Windows XP using the Windows CD that came with your PC. First back up your most important data on an external flash drive or hard drive, then try a "Repair Install" of Windows XP. See details at <http://tinyurl.com/r1cg>.

Note: The repair will erase all Windows improvements you've downloaded for the last six years. Use Windows Update to reinstall the fixes for all the flaws and security risks discovered since then.

Q: We have a 2002 Canon Multipass F50 printer that doesn't work with the Windows 7 PC we purchased. Canon and Microsoft say we need to buy a new printer. Do we?—Judy Wuollet, St. Louis Park, Minn.

A: Canon doesn't offer the driver software to make your old printer work with Windows 7, so the best solution is to buy a new printer.

Alternatively, there may be a workaround. If you have the "professional" or "ultimate" versions of Windows 7, Microsoft offers free add-on software called "Windows XP mode." XP mode might enable your printer to run, but not conveniently. Windows 7 documents would have to be transferred to XP mode for printing. See <http://tinyurl.com/y12ucno> for details, and <http://tinyurl.com/crgfls> to download.

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; e-mail: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.

Death & Funeral Announcement

Prudencio Songao Hocog

Also known as Dencho 'Tom Dencho'
October 09, 1929 - November 22, 2010
Was called home by our heavenly father on
November 22, 2010 at Rota Health Center at the age of 80 years.

Pre-Decceased By:
Father: Eugenio Pangilinan Hocog
Mother: Maria Mesingan Songao Hocog
Father/Mother In-Law: Jesus Borja/Cecilia Ayuya Manalita Ogo
Daughter: Linda Ogo Hocog
Brothers: Timo Songao Hocog
Sister's: Consolation Hocog Maralita, Vicenta Delenn Guerrero San Nicolas
Brother's In-Law: Crispin Ada Mangkona/Romano Masga Maralita,
Vicente Atalig Mangkona, Jose San Nicolas, Feliberto Maralita Ogo, Denice Maralita Ogo
Sister's In-Law: Rosario Atalig Hocog, Rufina Taimanao Ogo
Will forever live in the hearts of his:
Wife: Ana Mundila Ogo Hocog

Children & Spouses: Robert O./Rosario R. Hocog (Robert Jr./Charina, Francisco/Daisy, Jiquina/Derek, Robin, Roberta, Robbie, Rebiacette, Barbara/Peter, Ann Marie/Jerry, Anna Mac)
Elaine H./Edwin J. Orlin (Carl/Shani, Joel/Donna, Edwin/Aldrin, Elari)
Edwin O./Milagro O. Hocog (Ervonne/Antonio, Elton John)
Candida Hocog Payne (Lricia, Dwayne)
George O./Lucia M. Hocog (Rayne/Marlinda, Georgene/Albert, Gevnae/Lorann, Barry/Francie, Aubrey, Lequel)
Frederick O./Emmylyn O. Hocog (Johanna/Tam, Christopher, Rhia/Cass, Chloe)
Vivian H./Daniel A. Atalig (Donovan, Maggicelyn/Vincent, Brian/Simone, Jason/Celina, Jason/Lucency, Juan Jr., Barbara O. Hocog/Joel G. Catarino (Jirima, Charissa/TJ, Anthony Jr., Terrence)
Nina O. Hocog/Marcel Flores,
Kelvin O./Edwina E. Hocog (Darren, Kelina, Kennie)
Ann Marie H./Gary M. Toves (Albert/Lynette, Jitlie Ann/Hernis, Francisco, Gary Jr., Kelvin/Lyn, Garie Ann),
Melissa O. Hocog/Cally M. Mangkona (Ashley, Taylor Ann),
Evelyn C. Lester S. Atalig (Lester Jr., Laralyn/Manny, Lovay Ann/Joseph)
Anicia C./Pedring Ojinundo (Sotero, Petronila, Emmylyn)
Menden & Rissa Mac G. Hocog

And Sixty-two great-grandchildren
Sister: Florence Hocog Mangkona
Brother/Sister in law: Pedro M./Jalet Ogo, Candida O. Flattery,
Antonia B. Reynolds, Fernina/Thomas Bliss, Oscar M. Ogo
Godson: George M. Ayuyu

Daily mass is said six o'clock in the morning at San Francisco De Borja Church except on Monday, mass will be said at six o'clock in the evening.

On Tuesday, November 30, 2010, his remains will be escorted from the Rota Health Center morgue at 7:00 a.m. to his residence in District #2, Sampaga Village for final viewing and last respects. His remains will be brought to San Francisco De Borja Church. Mass of Christian burial will start at 10:00 a.m. Interment will follow at San Jose Cemetery where we will bid him his final farewell.

Your thoughts and prayers will always be remembered in our hearts.
Ana Ogo Hocog and Children

Off The Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Shop owner sells himself winning lottery ticket

BELLE VERNON, Pa. (AP)—A shop owner in western Pennsylvania has sold himself a winning \$1.8 million lottery ticket—and as the seller of the ticket, he'll get an extra \$10,000. Ron Rea owns Tobacco World stores in Uniontown and Belle Vernon. He bought the winning ticket for the Nov. 18 Match 6 Lotto drawing at the Belle Vernon store. Rea says he doesn't play the lottery's Daily Number, but he spends about \$20 a day on tickets for games with higher odds, telling the Herald-Standard of Uniontown, "If you hit, your life's changed." Rea's ticket was worth \$1,782,432. A lottery spokeswoman confirmed Rea's claim to the winning ticket. The 68-year-old Rea says the winnings will help him and his wife of 38 years, Rita, build their retirement funds.

J-E-L-L-Uh-Oh: Gelatin, pudding cups spill in Iowa

RUDD, Iowa (AP)—Northern Iowa authorities say they've cleaned up a slippery mess after a tipped semitrailer spilled Jell-O and pudding cups across a county road. The Floyd County sheriff's office says 52 pallets of gelatin and pudding fell from the trailer when its top ripped open near Rudd early Tuesday. It took crews three hours to clean up the debris. The sheriff's office says 39-year-old semitrailer driver Eric Young of Charleston, S.C., wasn't able to make a turn and went into the ditch where the rig rolled onto its side. Young and 32-year-old passenger Martin Brandon, of Bridgeport, Conn., suffered minor injuries. The Globe-Gazette in Mason City Damage reports damage to the semitrailer is estimated at \$50,000.

Men hold up NY pizza makers, flee with wrong dough

NEW YORK (AP)—Police in New York City say thieves held up the owners of a pizzeria and then fled with a bag of full dough—the kind that crusts are made of. Police say Salvatore LaRosa was charged with robbery after surrendering to police. According to court papers, LaRosa and an accomplice followed the owners of Brothers Pizzeria on Staten Island. After donning masks, the papers say, they pointed guns and demanded the men turn over a bag they believed held the day's proceeds. But instead, the bag was full of pizza dough. LaRosa was released on \$1 million bail on Monday. His attorney, James Fuccaro, declined to comment.

1,000 rescued rats up for adoption in California

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP)—About a thousand rats are awaiting adoption in California after being rescued from a house featured on the A&E reality TV show "Hoarders." The Humane Society trucked the rodents over the weekend from Los Angeles to San Jose, where more than 30 volunteers and nonprofit staff helped move the rats into Andy's Pet Shop in San Jose, which agreed to temporarily house them. Lauren Paul of the nonprofit North Star Rescue told the San Jose Mercury News that the previous owner's daughter had brought home a pregnant rat one day and the litter began multiplying quickly. The man's neighbors called "Hoarders" producers after the rats began tearing apart the house. Paul says she hopes rat lovers will come forward and give them a new home.

Ashamed to be Detroit? Not this tiny Oregon town

DETROIT, Ore. (AP)—Detroit—the one amid the conifers of Oregon and not to be confused with a certain Midwestern Motor City—will remain Detroit. Residents voted 47-37 on Tuesday not to change the name of the tiny town southeast of Portland to Detroit Lake. In September, the Motor City mayor's office criticized California gubernatorial hopeful Meg Whitman for comparing Fresno to Detroit and calling it "awful." In Detroit, Ore.—population 271—those who pushed the name change found nothing wrong with the shared name. Lodge owner Doug DeGeorge says Detroit Lake just "has a better sound," and would attract more tourists to the town at the 9-mile-long reservoir of that name. But the name Detroit was imported by early settlers from Michigan, and longtime residents weren't persuaded a change was needed.

Coach with lead foot talks traffic safety in ad

FARGO, N.D. (AP)—The Fargo police chief says North Dakota State football coach Craig Bohl wouldn't have been tapped as a traffic safety pitchman had officials known about his driving record. The Forum newspaper reported Bohl has been ticketed for at least 18 traffic offenses since he was hired in 2003. Bohl's voice is featured in a 30-second traffic safety spot describing a string of crashes in Fargo that killed five people this fall. It's aimed at repeat offenders, and Fargo Police Chief Keith Ternes says it makes the ad less effective when "the messenger might be somebody we're trying to reach." Still, Ternes isn't pulling the ad. And Bohl says his driving history is one reason he agreed to do it. "I looked myself in the mirror and said, 'I need to slow down,'" he said.

Underwear invention protects privacy at airport



DENVER (AP)—It's a special kind of underwear—with a strategically placed fig leaf design—and a Colorado man says it'll get you through the airport screeners with your dignity intact.

Jeff Buske says his invention uses a powdered metal that protects people's privacy when undergoing medical or security screenings.

Buske of Las Vegas, Nev.-Rocky Flats Gear says the underwear's inserts are thin

In this undated product image provided by Rocky Flats Gear, a variety of the company's radiation shielding underwear is shown.

AP

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT

In Celebration of His New Life

DANIEL SANTOS BORJA, JR.

BETTER KNOWN AS "DANNY OR JUN"

February 26, 1962 – November 19, 2010

Joined his Creator in Hayward, California



In his new life, he now, joins his:

Father:

Daniel Tudela Borja (Tuhu)

Mother:

Joaquina Sablan Santos Borja (Maka)

Sister:

Victoria Santos Borja Aguon

Brother-In-Law:

Juan Cruz Aguon

Sister-In-Law:

Leticia May Cabrera Borja

Paternal Grandparents:

Vicente Diaz Borja

Maternal Grandparents:

Victoria Sablan Tudela Borja

Godparents:

Angelina Flores Borja

Juan Quichocho Santos

Maria Delos Reyes Sablan Santos

Benbal Salas and Maria Tenorio Borja

Pedro Torres Sablan

He is survived by his:

Brothers, Sisters, In-Law and their Children:

Vicente S. Borja (Joaquina Marie C. Borja & Randy Sablan, Sandy C. Borja & Tania Aguon, Lucretia C. Borja & Jesus Guererro)

†Victoria Borja and †Juan Aguon (Frances B. & Oscar Pangalinan, Joaquina Carmen B. Aguon & Isidoro Cabrera and John B. Aguon & Yvonne Demello) Jose S. & Nancy Borja (Kina Jolene Borja & Rob Dillon, Kendra Rita Borja and Jaret Tomas Borja)

Juan S. & Nicolasa B. Borja (Kina Ann Borja & Marco Peter, Perry John B. Borja and Thomas Jude B. Borja)

Maria Borja & Jose H. Salas (Joaquina Margaret B. Salas, Joseph B. Salas, Daniel B. Salas, Michael B. Salas)

Ines Borja & Thomas Castro (Joaquina Marie B. Castro)

Roman S. & Anita A. Borja (Yeshua A. Borja and Montana A. Borja)

Best Friends: Dicta Tenorio and Family; Joe & Cecil Lifoifoi & Family; Nancy Rosario & Family; Sid Fejeren & Family

He is additionally survived by numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, godchildren and friends here and in the mainland U.S.A.

Daily mass is being offered at 6:00 a.m. at Kristo Rai Church.

The arrival of his cremated remains and memorial services will be announced at a later date.

Your thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Thank You and Si Yu'us Ma'ase

THE FAMILY

Life & Style



CNN Heroes of the year from left to right, Anuradha Koirala, Susan Burton, Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow, Evans Wadongo, Narayanan Krishnan, Guadalupe De La Vega, Linda Fondren, Aki Ra, Harmon Parker, and Dan Wallrath arrive at "CNN Heroes: An All-Star Tribute" awards show in Los Angeles on Saturday, Nov. 20, 2010.

CNN awards everyday heroes

By MEG JAMES
LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES—Hollywood award shows come with glamorous stars, popular bands and tearful acceptance speeches, and CNN's laurels offer all of that along with a rare humanitarian twist. The cable news channel is celebrating regular people who toil—against the odds—to improve the lives of others.

"The world does not need another award show, but we wanted to turn the tables and shine a spotlight on people who really deserve to be honored," said Anderson Cooper, who hosts "CNN Heroes: An All-Star Tribute," which will be broadcast Thanksgiving evening.

"These are people who do not have a lot of money, who do not have access to power, and some are not even liked by the leaders of their communities. But each one woke up one day and decided it was up to them to start filling a need," Cooper said in an interview. "They are truly extraordinary people."

Cooper presented the 2010 CNN Hero of the Year award to Anuradha Koirala, who has spent two decades working to prevent the human trafficking and sexual exploitation of Nepal's women and girls. She and her supporters have raided brothels, educated villagers and provided a haven for some of the more than 12,000 Nepalese women and girls that her group has rescued from a life of prostitution.

CNN taped its high-wattage show Saturday night at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles. The 33 recently rescued Chilean miners were flown to Los Angeles to take the stage and kick off the gala. Halle Berry, Renee Zellweger, Jessica Alba, Demi Moore, Kid Rock, LL Cool J, Gerard Butler and Kiefer Sutherland presented awards to the 10 recipients from around the world. Grammy winners Sugarland, John Legend and Bon Jovi performed musical numbers.

Each of CNN's heroes received \$25,000 to help with their missions, and Koirala collected an additional \$100,000 for her organization, Maiti Nepal.

CNN's honorees were culled from more than 10,000 submissions from 100 countries. About 2 million votes were cast online to select the hero of the year.

The nine other recipients are:

■ Susan Burton of Los Angeles: With funding from private foundations, she provides housing and help for up to 22 women who have recently been released from prison and have nowhere to go.

■ Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow of Argyll, Scotland: He founded Mary's Meals to make a dent in world hunger by providing at least one free meal a day at school for impoverished children in 15 countries.

■ Dan Wallrath of Houston: He launched an organization five years ago that builds homes for injured U.S. service members.

■ Aki Ra of Siem Reap, Cambodia: He heads the Cambodian Self-Help Demining team to clear land mines, some of which he planted when he was a child soldier during the reign of the Khmer Rouge.

■ Harmon Parker of Lexington, Ky.: This missionary started a nonprofit organization called Bridging the Gap, which oversees the construction of foot bridges in Kenya to make safe passage over sometimes deadly flood-swollen rivers.

■ Evans Wadongo of Nairobi, Kenya: This native of rural Kenya devised solar-powered LED lanterns, which he has distributed to hundreds of villagers in the hopes that they can improve their lives if they do not have to spend their meager resources on kerosene.

■ Narayanan Krishnan of Madurai, India: An award-winning chef, he quit his job eight years ago to feed and care for the homeless, many of whom are mentally ill, and abandoned elderly people.

■ Guadalupe Arizpe De La Vega of El Paso, Texas: She works to promote the Hospital de la Familia, a health center that she launched more than 30 years ago in drug-war ravaged Juarez, Mexico.

■ Linda Fondren of Vicksburg, Miss.: Through her yearlong "Shape Up Vicksburg," in which she provided free fitness and nutrition classes and lobbied local eateries to serve healthful meals, Fondren campaigned to end obesity in her city.

DEATH AND FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Antonio Ilo Iguel

Better known as "Tonchi/Tony-Boy"

Born to life on November 20, 1970 and
Was called to his eternal rest on November 20, 2010

In his eternal life he now joins his:

Parents:

†Manases Iguel
†Aurelia Ilo Iguel
†Teresa Rabago Aguon
†Marikita Magdalena Aguon Iguel
†Ray John I. Blas
†Juan I. Iguel, †Maria Estella I. Norita,
†Gregorio I. Iguel
†Antonio I. Iguel
†Joaquin A. Deleon Guerrero
†Manuel L. Norita
†Ratao S. Martin
†Antonio R. Marlik
†Randy S. Gines
†Arthur James Cruz

Brothers In-Law:



He will be remembered in the hearts of his:

Wife:
Children:

Janet Rabago Aguon Iguel
Shane Travis A. Iguel, Shana Therese A. Iguel, Aurelia Tonianna A. Iguel,
Marikishalin Learughpiang A. Iguel, Tiauna Rae A. Iguel
Manaura I. Quichocho and Monalynn I. Santos
†Juan I. Iguel/Dolores and Children, Magdalena I. Dlg./†Joaquin and
Children, Sylvestre I. Iguel/Escuela and Children, †Maria Estella I.
Norita/†Manuel and Children, †Gregorio I. Iguel and Children, Cynthia I.
Martin/†Ratao and Children, Isabel I. Marlik/†Antonio and Children,
Anna I. Sarapio/Alkantro and Children, Margarita I. Iguel and Children,
Francisco I. Iguel/Moreena and Children, Henry I. Iguel/Elaine and
Children, Maria I. Iguel/Johnny and Children, Susana I. Elieisar/Delvin
and son, Geraldine I. Gines/†Randy and Children

Father-In-Law:

Santiago Santos Aguon
Lina Aquino Aguon
Juan R. Aguon/Dolores and Children, Marian A. Sablan/Joseph and
Children, William R. Aguon/Brenda and Children, Dina R. Aguon and
son, George R. Aguon and Children, Patricia A. Cruz/†Arthur and
Children, Frances A. Camacho/Sylvan and Children, Jesse R.
Aguon/Eleanor and Children, Pia Rose A. Aguon and son

He will also be missed by numerous uncles, aunts, cousins, nieces, nephews & friends.

Nightly Mass is being celebrated at 6:00 p.m. at Santa Remedios Parish Church in
Tanapag followed by the Holy Rosary.

On Saturday, November 27, 2010 at 7:30 a.m. our beloved will be escorted from Nuestra Señora
dela Paz Funeral Home to Santa Remedios Parish Church in Tanapag for viewing and last respects.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 2:00 p.m. followed immediately by interment
services at Tanapag Cemetery in Lower Base.

Please join us in prayers.

Thank You and Si Yu'us Ma'ase

The Family

Tokyo remains top gourmet city in Michelin Guide

By MARI YAMAGUCHI
ASSOCIATED PRESS

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's capital has retained its top spot in the world of gastronomy, according to Michelin Guides, with more top-rated restaurants than Paris

for the second year in a row.

The Tokyo metropolitan area, which unseated Paris from the No. 1 spot last year with 11 three-star restaurants, widened its margin this year with a stunning 14 receiving the highest rating, Michelin said in a state-

ment Wednesday. The French capital scored 10.

Michelin Guides Director Jean-Luc Naret said the results proved once again that Tokyo was the world's gastronomical capital.

The first Michelin Guide was published in 1900 as a handbook

for French motorists. It made its Asia debut in Japan in 2007.

Tokyo's victory included the debut of sushi restaurant Araki and the promotion of three Japanese restaurants that had been awarded two stars in the previous edition of the guide, including one that specializes in pufferfish, a delicacy known as fugu that can be highly poisonous if prepared improperly.

In all, Michelin bestowed 266 stars to restaurants in metropolitan Tokyo this year. That includes 26 two-star and one-star restaurants in the nearby cities of Yokohama and Kamakura.

A team of undercover Michelin inspectors visited nearly 400 restaurants in Yokohama and Kamakura for the latest edition, which goes on sale Saturday, in addition to hun-



A copy of the latest Japanese edition of the Michelin Guide featuring selected restaurants in Japanese cities of Tokyo, Yokohama and Kamakura is on display during a news conference in Yokohama, Japan, Wednesday, Nov. 24, 2010.

dreds more in Tokyo.

Naret said in the statement that Kamakura and Yokohama had a high culinary potential and would have "more stars above them in the future."

Tokyo is home to 160,000 restaurants, compared to 60,000 in Paris.

Michelin's ranking system considers the quality, consistency and value of a restaurant's food, with three stars designating "exceptional cuisine, and worth the journey," without taking into account the service or ambiance, according to the guide.

The first Tokyo edition sold 300,000 copies—150,000 of which were snapped up in the first 24 hours. Since then, Michelin has released guides for Hong Kong and Macau, as well as Osaka and Kyoto in western Japan.

20 questions for...actor Lee Majors



TIME LIFE VIA POPMATTERS.COM/MCT

Who comes to mind when you think of Lee Majors? Col. Steve Austin, who could run as fast as the wind, leap over really high fences in a single bound, and zero-in on a wee mouse a mile away, thanks to that crazy bionic eyeball of his? Or do you know him as Heath Barkley in the Western TV series "The Big Valley"—a role Burt Reynolds was vying for, but—get this—lost to Majors? Well, not only did he beat Burt Reynolds out of a role when he was still but a young'un, but Majors has been acting for 47 years now, so when you think of him, you may think of a whole bunch of characters. Of all those characters, he thinks of himself rather like Colt Seavers of "The Fall Guy," he tells 20 Questions.

Holiday gift alert: Time Life is releasing a 40-DVD set of "The Six Million Dollar Man: The Complete Series" this week.

Want more of the man? Watch for him in the movie version of "The Big Valley" (directed by Daniel Adams) playing the father of his character in the 1965 TV series.

1 The latest book or movie that made you cry?

Movie: "The Blind Side." Book: "The Lone Survivor" by Luttrell and Robinson.

2 The fictional character most like you?

Colt Seavers from the TV series "The Fall Guy." I was able to be myself in this show as opposed to portraying a character I would have to completely invent.

3 The greatest album, ever?

Donna Summers and Gloria Gaynor "hits."

4 "Star Trek" or "Star Wars"?

Actually, I was always into Westerns. My heroes were Roy Rogers and Gene Autry.

5 Your ideal brain food?

Studying my football

charts to pick winners for the weekend games.

6 You're proud of this accomplishment, but why?

I'm proud I've been able to work as an actor for 47 years. It's not an easy accomplishment in this business.

7 You want to be remembered for ...?

Doing three major television series, which three different generations of kids could enjoy.

8 Of those who've come before, the most inspirational are?

Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther King, Billy Graham, Paul Newman and Steve McQueen.

9 The creative masterpiece you wish bore your signature?

The U.S. Constitution or the Declaration of Independence.

10 Your hidden talents ...?

My wife Faith says I'm a comedian and that I can sing. (I sang the theme song to "The Fall Guy," "The Unknown Stuntman.")

11 The best piece of advice you actually followed?

On my first audition for "The Big Valley" TV series my agent Dick Clayton advised me to ask to audition a second time. I did and it worked, I was more relaxed, less nervous and did a great audition and got the part! (PopMatters.com)

12 The best thing you ever bought, stole or borrowed?

My first purchase of an automobile. A 1966 Buick Riviera, chocolate brown color. I also drove it from Los Angeles to New Orleans by myself in my early 20s.

13 You feel best in Armani or Levis or ...?

I feel most comfortable in Levi's, most dignified in Armani.

14 Your dinner guest at the Ritz would be?

Jesus Christ.

15 Time travel: where, when and why?

Space, anytime. Having played astronaut Col. Steve Austin in "The Six Million Dollar Man," I worked with NASA at Cape Canaveral filming scenes in an actual rocket space capsule.

16 Stress management: hit man, spa vacation or Prozac?

Spa vacation, Hawaii, Fiji, Australia.

17 Essential to life: coffee, vodka, cigarettes, chocolate, or ...?

Someone who loves you and that you love unconditionally. And of course a little chocolate is nice!

18 Environ of choice: city or country, and where on the map?

A log cabin by a lake in Montana.

19 What do you want to say to the leader of your country?

Stop spending money that we the people don't have!!!

20 Last but certainly not least, what are you working on, now?

Getting ready to start filming the movie "The Big Valley" soon. It's based on my first TV series of the same name. Ironically I play the father of my original character, Heath Barkley, when I was 24 years old.

(PopMatters.com)

a statement Wednesday. "Now that the book is out and destined to appear on the best-seller list, we're pleased that HarperCollins proposed settling this case as is, thus avoiding lengthy litigation for both sides."

"America by Heart" was No. 10 on Amazon.com's best-seller list Wednesday morning.

Palin, the former governor of Alaska, was the vice-presidential candidate on the Republican ticket in 2008.

Gawker pleased Palin publisher settled suit

NEW YORK (AP)—Gawker Media said Wednesday that it is pleased Sarah Palin's publisher has settled its lawsuit alleging copyright infringement, avoiding "lengthy litigation."

HarperCollins sued Gawker on Friday for posting leaked images from Palin's "America by Heart," which went on sale Tuesday. Gawker pulled the images over the weekend after a federal judge granted HarperCollins an injunction pending a Nov. 30 hearing.

The publisher, which had sought financial damages, said Tuesday that Gawker had agreed to keep the images off its website. HarperCollins declined to give further details of the settlement, but said in a statement that it was "gratified."

"HarperCollins' decision to file suit against us and seek a temporary restraining order generated a good deal of press for Ms. Palin's book in advance of its publication," Gawker said in

a statement Wednesday. "Now that the book is out and destined to appear on the best-seller list, we're pleased that HarperCollins proposed settling this case as is, thus avoiding lengthy litigation for both sides."

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"America by Heart

Mother does a slow burn picking up smokers' trash

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I returned to our hometown and bought a bungalow in a cute older neighborhood. The homes are close together, separated by a single driveway.

Our neighbors on both sides of us are smokers. They smoke on their front porches and flick their smoldering butts onto the driveway and yard. The ground is littered with them, which my two toddlers want to put into their mouths every time they go outside. Often I'll go out with a bag and collect the butts, but it's annoying having to pick up someone's easily discarded trash—particularly trash that has been in someone's mouth.

My neighbors are pretty rough, and I'm afraid a confrontation could result in an escalation of the problem. Should I continue gathering up the butts and keep my mouth shut? Or should I just "butt out"?



Dear Abby

BOTHERED IN MISSOURI

DEAR BOTHERED: If you are concerned about a hostile reaction from your neighbors, do not approach them—particularly if you're afraid that doing so could become confrontational. Instead, plant hedges or bushes between your property and theirs, and have your children play—under your supervision—in the backyard.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My mom has three sisters, two of whom I am very close to and love dearly. The problem is the third sister, "Aunt Sandy." She had a falling out with Mom a few years ago and is now considered the black sheep of the family.

At my grandmother's funeral, I had the chance to sit and talk with her, and I didn't feel I was doing anything wrong. However, my mom told me later she was "hurt" because I had talked to Aunt Sandy knowing the family is upset with her. Mom said she'd appreciate it if I didn't do it again. I tried to explain that the way she feels about her sister shouldn't have anything to do with our relationship, but Mom refuses to understand. I want a connection with my Aunt Sandy without hurting my mom. Please help.

WE'RE STILL RELATED

DEAR STILL RELATED: I wish you had told me in more detail why your mother is angry with Sandy, and why the rest of the family is cooperating in isolating her. However, you are an adult. Whom you choose to befriend is your business, not your mother's. If you wish to pursue a relationship with Aunt Sandy, you are free to do so. And if you don't want your mother to be "hurt," don't discuss it with her.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I was walking to lunch a few days ago and approached the entrance of a restaurant a couple of seconds after a man approaching from the opposite direction. He was a gentleman and held the door for me. I said thank you and walked inside.

Even though he was there first, I wound up in front of him in a long line. Are there rules of etiquette for this? I felt a little awkward essentially cutting in line after he was so chivalrous.

NICOLE IN DENVER

DEAR NICOLE: There is no rule of etiquette that dictates it, but you could have offered the gentleman a chance to be in line in front of you. However, if you did, he might have extended his chivalry further and refused.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Brody: No alternative but to sue film producers

LOSANGELES(AP)—Adrien Brody says he was reluctantly forced to sue the makers of a thriller film because they failed to pay his full salary.

U.S. District Judge Dale S. Fischer on Monday blocked the sale or use of Brody's likeness in "Giallo" until the Oscar winner's remaining salary is paid. The judge noted in her ruling that the actor was likely to prevail in his \$2 million lawsuit against the filmmakers.

"At no point did I ever wish to be involved in a legal dispute, but after over a year of attempting to resolve this matter I was left with no other alternative," Brody said in a statement released to The Associated Press by his attorney Wednesday.

The actor sued Hannibal Pictures and U.K.-based Giallo Productions Ltd. in October,

shortly before "Giallo" went on sale in the United States. In a sworn declaration, Brody claimed the filmmakers lied to him about the movie's financing and how much its Italian distribution rights were worth.

An after-hours phone message left for Martin Barab, an attorney representing the filmmakers, was not immediately returned.

The picture was shot in 2008 in Turin, Italy, and Brody is featured prominently on the DVD's cover.

Brody said he was grateful for the ruling.

"I am greatly appreciative of the court's ruling which protects me, and shows support for all artists who have been manipulated and taken advantage of by unscrupulous employers," his statement said.



In this Oct. 23, 2010 file photo, actor Adrien Brody arrives at the 32nd Annual Carousel of Hope Ball in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Brody, 37, won an Oscar in 2003 for his role in "The Pianist."

According to the lawsuit, he agreed to defer some of his salary payments for "Giallo" after its producers informed him the film was having financial problems. As a concession, Brody was given the ability to withhold his likeness from the movie unless he was fully paid, and he is still owed \$640,000, according to the suit.

His attorney, Evan Spiegel, said in a statement that the filmmakers "attempted to prey on Mr. Brody's professionalism and generosity." Spiegel said Brody agreed to defer his salary so that fellow actors and the film's crew could be paid.

"Mr. Brody has never been in a legal dispute in his 39-film career, but here the producers attempted to use economic power to overpower and take advantage of a performer," Spiegel wrote.

Ana Maria Matute wins Spain's Cervantes prize

MADRID (AP)—Spanish author Ana Maria Matute has won Spain's 2010 Cervantes Prize, the Spanish-speaking world's top literary honor, the Culture Ministry said Wednesday.

Matute, 85, is ranked as one of the country's best post-Civil War writers. Her work often centers on that conflict, which took place from 1936-39.

Among her most popular nov-

els are "Los Abel" (The Abels), "Los Soldados Lloran de Noche" (Soldiers Cry By Night), "La Trampa" (The Trap), which portray the era and atmosphere during the Spanish Civil War.

Known for her lyrical style, Matute's novels deal with the lives of children and adolescents, highlighting with sadness such feelings as betrayal and isolation.

"I take the prize as recognition, if not for the quality of the work at least for the effort and total dedication of my life," Matute said at a press conference after winning the prize.

"I am happy, enormously happy," she said.

Referring to the postwar dictatorship of late Gen. Francisco Franco, she said, "Spain was very closed to the world, espe-

cially intellectually. The poor ones who had the courage to write came in for criticism, and often maliciously."

Matute has also been praised for her children's books and young adult novels, including "Los Ninos Tontos" (The Stupid Children), and "El Verdadero Final de La Bella Durmiente" (The True Story of Sleeping Beauty).

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Prince Andrew: UK taken royal bride Kate to heart

LONDON (AP)—Britain has taken Prince William's fiancee Kate Middleton to its heart, Prince Andrew says. Andrew, the second son of Queen Elizabeth II and uncle to William, tells Britain's Press Association that the upcoming royal wedding is "the most wonderful piece of news that the U.K. has had for a long time." He says it is wonderful that "the U.K. has taken Kate to their heart." Andrew was speaking Wednesday in Abu Dhabi, where he joined the queen and her husband Prince Philip in a five-day state visit.

Wesley Snipes asks for bail extension to appeal

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Attorneys for Wesley Snipes are asking a judge to extend the actor's bail as he prepares for a possible appeal of his three-year prison sentence for a tax conviction. The Orlando Sentinel reports that attorneys urged a judge Tuesday to continue the bail while they prepare to ask the U.S. Supreme Court to hear his case.

Snipes was recently ordered to begin serving his sentence, but the judge did not set a surrender date. Snipes has been free on bail while appealing his 2008 conviction for willful failure to file income tax returns. The 48-year-old Snipes starred in the "Blade" trilogy, "White Men Can't Jump" and other films. He has recently been in

Atlanta working on a new movie called "Master Daddy."

It's a boy for John Travolta and Kelly Preston

LOS ANGELES (AP)—John Travolta and Kelly Preston will have a new guest at their Thanksgiving table. A publicist says the couple welcomed a baby boy Tuesday in Florida. They named their new son Benjamin. The eight-pound, three-ounce boy was born at an undisclosed Florida hospital. Spokeswoman Samantha Mast said in a statement late Tuesday that the couple and their daughter, Ella Bleu, "are ecstatic and very happy about the newest member of the family." The statement says Preston and baby Benjamin "are healthy and doing beautifully." This is the third child for Travolta and Preston, who were married in 1991. Their eldest child, son Jett, died last year at age 16.

Comedian George Lopez's wife files for divorce

LOS ANGELES (AP)—George Lopez and his wife of 17 years are making their breakup official with her filing for divorce. Ann Serrano Lopez filed her petition, citing irreconcilable difference, on Tuesday in Los Angeles. The pair announced their breakup in September and said they would remain partners in a charitable foundation. They have a 14-year-old daughter, and Ann Lopez is seeking physical custody. The filings do not of-

fer any additional details about the split. The pair were married in September 1993 and did not list a separation date. The filing was first reported by celebrity website TMZ. The 49-year-old comedian hosts the talkshow "Lopez Tonight" on TBS.

Rapper DMX denies probation violation charges

PHOENIX (AP)—Rapper DMX is denying allegations that he violated his probation by using cocaine and OxyContin. A court official ordered the 39-year-old performer, whose real name is Earl Simmons, to remain in a Phoenix jail after he denied the charges on Wednesday. The official scheduled another hearing next month. Court documents allege that he failed to submit to drug testing and drove on a suspended license. He was arrested last Thursday and was being held without bond. Simmons' attorney said he had been working with his client and probation officials, and expected the arrest. Simmons was placed on probation last year after convictions for attempted aggravated assault for throwing a food tray at a jail guard, and theft for trying to use a fake name to avoid paying a \$7,500 hospital bill.

Billy Joel mending after replacements of both hips

NEW YORK (AP)—Billy Joel is recovering from double hip-replacement surgery. Joel spokeswoman Claire Mercuri told Peo-

ple magazine Wednesday that the 61-year-old pop star had both hips replaced last week to correct a congenital condition. She says Joel, the Rock and Roll Hall of Famer responsible for such hits as "Piano Man," "Uptown Girl" and "New York State of Mind," is "doing extremely well." Joel toured this year and was recently promoting the documentary film "The Last Play at Shea." There's no word on when he plans to perform on stage again.

Faulkner photos by giant Cartier-Bresson come home

JACKSON, Miss. (AP)—Two photographs pairing artistic giants of the 20th century—author William Faulkner and photographer Henri Cartier-Bresson—are coming back home to Mississippi. The portraits of Faulkner were shot by the French photojournalist in 1947. They were recently bought by the University of Mississippi from a Los Angeles art consultant, whose colleague acquired them in France. University museum director William Pittman Andrews declined to say what they cost. The photos of Faulkner were taken at Rowan Oak, his Greek Revival house in Oxford that now functions as a Faulkner museum run by the university. Copies of the photos will be displayed at Rowan Oak, while the originals will be displayed, at some point, in the university museum about a mile away.

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	\$57

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OPEN DATE: Nov. 19, 2010
CLOSE DATE: Nov. 27, 2010

POSITION: Water Park supervisor (One)
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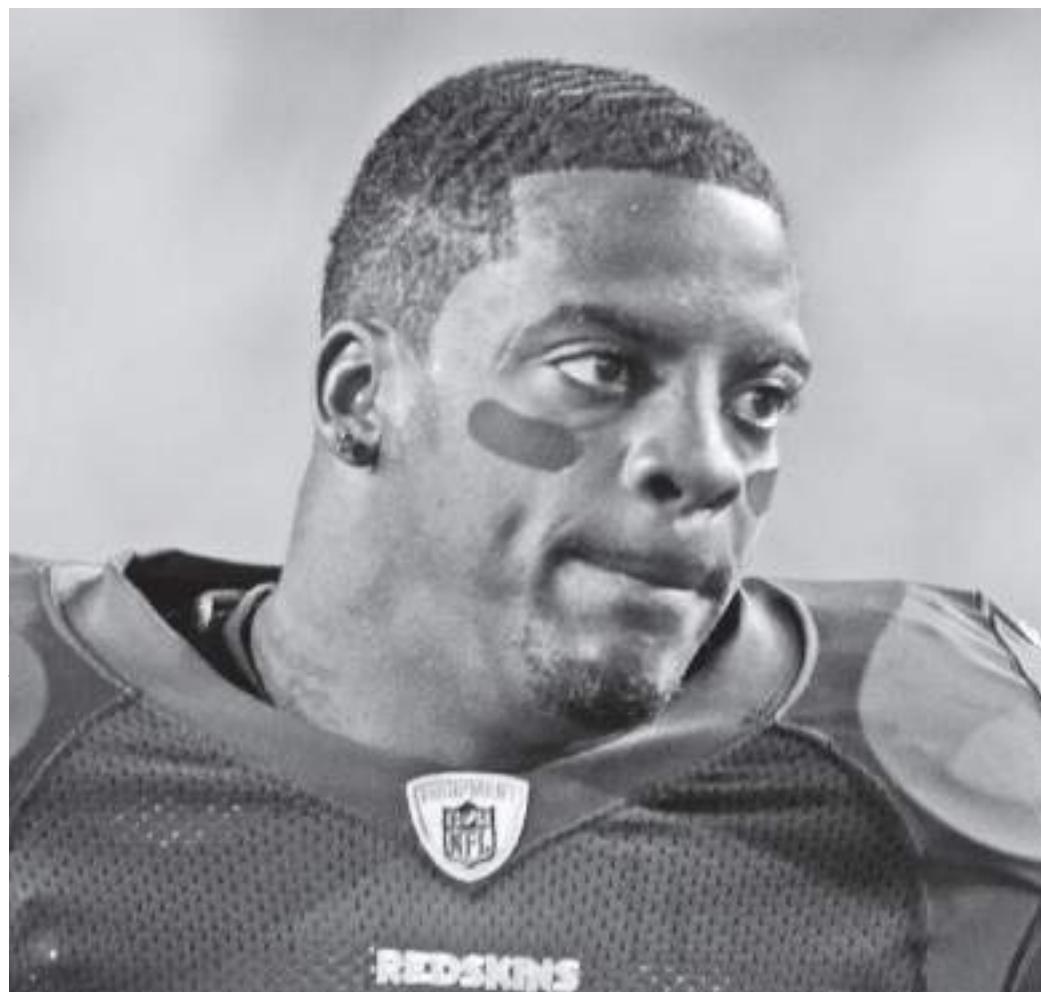
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Injury ends season early for Redskins' Portis



Jacobs regains Giants No. 1 running back spot

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)—Brandon Jacobs is once again the New York Giants' No. 1 running back.

Frustrated with Ahmad Bradshaw's inability to hold the ball, coach Tom Coughlin demoted Bradshaw and gave Jacobs the starting job for Sunday's game against the Jacksonville Jaguars.

For his part, Jacobs didn't know what to make of the promotion.

"To me this is just a temporary thing," the six-year veteran said. "I think people are making a little too much out of it. We know what Ahmad brings to this football team with his carries and hard work, and he knows that as well. If you ask me, it's just temporary. I don't know what the reason for the whole thing is or what they are trying to prove."

Coughlin has one reason for the switch: Bradshaw has fumbled too much, leading the league among running backs. While Bradshaw is fifth in the league in rushing with 867 yards, he has fumbled six times and lost five, with most of the turnovers happening when he struggles for extra yardage. The last one came in Sunday night's 27-17 loss to Philadelphia, and that was enough for the veteran coach after seeing his team cough up the ball five times.

"The No. 1 consideration is to try to stop beating ourselves," Coughlin said of the change Wednesday. "That's one area that we should be able to improve. It's very frustrating not to improve in that area."

Coughlin plans to continue

giving Bradshaw carries, but Jacobs is going to start and get more work. Bradshaw has 185 carries this season. Jacobs has been limited to 78 for 387 yards.

"I can't say frustration is the word," said Bradshaw, who said the only thing he has been told was he is no longer the starter. "Like I said, all I can do is play my game."

Coughlin said Bradshaw obviously wasn't happy about the change, but he believes the fourth-year player will fight his way through it.

The change has to be awkward for Bradshaw and Jacobs, who are roommates and best friends.

"He knows I am here and I support him 100 percent on everything," said Jacobs, who rushed for more than 1,000 yards in 2007 and '08 before slipping to 835 in an injury-plagued 2009 season. "I know he does the same."

Jacobs and Bradshaw had been the Giants' 1-2 punch the last two years. The 264-pound Jacobs would wear down defenses with his bruising style, then the quicker and nimbler Bradshaw would run past them late in the game for big gains.

All that changed in training camp. Bradshaw got the first carry in Albany, N.Y., and his style seemed to fit with an offensive line that was opening cracks instead of gaping holes.

Jacobs is going to get the majority of carries now.

"I know once I get my opportunity, no matter if it's starting or second or third, I am going to show people that I am

still worthy of having on the football team, and I can help my team win," Jacobs said.

Jacobs isn't the type of back who is going to break the big run, although he is capable of doing that once he gets up a head of speed. Bradshaw can score on any handoff, something the Giants might need these days with receivers Steve Smith and Hakeem Nicks sidelined with injuries.

"I know if we want to win, we're going to give him the ball," Jacobs said. "If we want to win, hand it to him and he's going to get it done."

With his limited number of carries this season, Jacobs said he is very healthy heading into the 11th game.

"I just want to win, I am tired of coming into this locker room with droopy faces. We used to have fun in this locker room and fun at practice. I am just sick and tired of not being able to do that because we are beating ourselves. I just want to get this thing on the right track and get rolling. It's getting cold and we have a chance to punish people and that's what I want to do."

Quarterback Eli Manning said the change isn't a major one.

"Brandon has obviously run the ball well for us this year, he knows what it's like to get the bulk of the carries, so it should be good," Manning said. "We'll mix in Ahmad. He's going to stay focused, stay ready and he'll be in there. We've still got the same tandem and they'll be working together, so whoever is in there knows how to run the ball."

ASHBURN, Va. (AP)—Clinton Portis' season has come to an early end for the second year in a row.

Coach Mike Shanahan said Wednesday that the Washington Redskins running back will be placed on injured reserve with a torn muscle in the lower abdomen.

The new injury is just above the area of the torn left groin that caused Portis to miss five games. Portis returned from the groin injury for Sunday's game against Tennessee but lasted only five carries before getting hurt again.

Portis will have surgery and require at least two months of rehabilitation, ending his season with a career-low 227 yards on 54 carries with two touchdowns.

The move could bring an end to Portis' career with the Redskins after seven seasons. The 29-year-old back is 77 yards short of 10,000 for his career

This Sept. 12, 2010, file photo shows Washington Redskins running back Clinton Portis before the start of an NFL football game against the Dallas Cowboys, in Landover, Md. Portis' season has come to an early end for the second year in a row. Teammates said Wednesday, Nov. 24, 2010, that the Redskins running back was being placed on injured reserve.

AP

and 648 yards shy of John Riggins' franchise record.

Portis missed the last eight games of the 2009 season with a severe concussion, and the Redskins brought in veterans Willie Parker and Larry Johnson to challenge him for playing time this season. Parker and Johnson were eventually cut, but youngsters Ryan Torain and Keiland Williams have taken over the bulk of the tailback duties since Portis first hurt his groin against Philadelphia on Oct. 3.

Torain isn't expected to play this week against the Minnesota Vikings because of a hamstring injury, leaving Williams as the starter and James Davis and Andre Brown(notes) as the likely backups. Davis was promoted from the practice squad Monday, and Brown will be signed if he passes a physical.

Portis has three years left on his contract, but his salary would

increase to \$8.25 million in 2011. Shanahan said he has no doubts that Portis can still in the NFL.

"He's got such a strong will. It all depends on 'Does he come back 100 percent?' 'Does he want to come back and play?'" Shanahan said. "Because he's got that inner drive that most people don't have. But obviously he's got to get well."

Shanahan said he isn't second-guessing whether Portis returned from the groin injury too soon. The coach said Portis was ready to play the week before but was held back as a precaution.

"How do you know for sure?" Shanahan said. "You've just got to go with your gut and see how a guy practices, and he practiced really well, so who knows for sure?"

In another roster move, the Redskins signed offensive lineman Jacob Bender to the practice squad.

NFL, union make progress in talks

NEW YORK (AP)—The NFL and the players union made "some progress" during a meeting Monday, a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press.

The talks were "encouraging" and centered on the proposed 18-game regular season and limiting offseason workouts, according to the person who requested anonymity because negotiations are ongoing.

The NFL Network first reported the details of Monday's session, which was attended by NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell and NFLPA executive director DeMaurice Smith.

Both the union and league spokesman Greg Aiello on

Wednesday confirmed the meeting, which also involved union president Kevin Mawae, Dominique Foxworth of the Ravens and team presidents Rich McKay of the Falcons, Mike Holmgren of the Browns and Bill Polian of the Colts.

A proposal to extend the regular season by two games and reduce the preseason from four games to two was presented to the union a few weeks ago. The union made a counteroffer in which it asked for more roster spots—the players want three or four more, the league so far has suggested one—and fewer offseason workouts. The NFLPA wants those workouts reduced by about one-third

from the 14 weeks currently allowed.

Players fear the chance for injuries is too high with so many offseason practices that include contact drills.

The players also want the practice squads retained, which is likely even if the regular season remains at 16 games. As of now, there are eight players on those squads.

NFL owners opted out of the collective bargaining agreement in 2008, and it expires on March 3. Little progress had been made on major issues during negotiations, with the key point the owners' demand that the players' cut of designated revenues be restructured.

Titans' Young apologizes to Fisher via text

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Jeff Fisher says quarterback Vince Young has apologized to him via text message, though probably not the best move since the Tennessee coach says talking face-to-face is a "man thing."

Fisher said Wednesday after practice that reporters could draw their own conclusion on whether he would have preferred an apology from Young in person. The coach wouldn't discuss what the text said except that Young apologized via a text sent Tuesday.

But the coach also didn't text his quarterback in response.

"I'm not a real big text guy," Fisher said. "I'm not really into this new age stuff. I don't twit or tweet. But I think face-to-face is a man thing, OK?"

The quarterback had a heated exchange with Fisher in the

locker room after Sunday's overtime loss to Washington, and Fisher told Young not to attend a team meeting Monday. Tennessee placed Young on injured reserve Tuesday because he needs season-ending surgery on his right thumb.

Fisher said he will meet with Young at some point. Asked if hearing from his quarterback by text does some good to a relationship that has seemed beyond repair, Fisher said he didn't think so.

"Someone could've grabbed his phone and texted," Fisher said.

Fisher told Houston reporters on a conference call earlier Wednesday that Young is welcome to show up at practices if he wants. Fisher said he's also busy focusing on his Titans (5-5) visiting the Houston Texans (4-6) on

Sunday with his team just a game out of first in the AFC South.

Titans safety Michael Griffin said a lot of what's happened has been blown out of proportion. A college teammate of Young's at Texas, Griffin said he hadn't talked to Young but thinks the quarterback possibly went home. Young did tweet "Houston" on Tuesday.

Griffin does think Young having surgery on his right thumb and being on injured reserve probably is best for both the quarterback and Fisher. Griffin believes the relationship between the men can be fixed because what happened between them was emotional, not physical.

"That's the best thing that probably could've happened right now. Just need some time to cool off between the both of them and focus on this team," Griffin said

Magic hand Heat third straight loss



ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—First came “The Decision.” Then the expectations. Now the pressure is on the Miami Heat more than ever.

Even from the White House. Dwight Howard had 24 points and 18 rebounds, J.J. Redick scored 20 points and the Orlando Magic beat Miami 104-95 on Wednesday night to hand the Heat’s All-Star trio its first three-game losing streak.

The slower-than-expected start for the Heat has resonated all the way to Washington, where President Barack Obama said before the game in an interview with ABC that it “takes some time for the team to come together.”

Nobody could have imagined it would take this long.

“If we had the answer right now, we wouldn’t be sitting at one game over .500,” LeBron James said of his Heat’s 8-7 start. “We’re a few games out of first. We’re a few games out of eighth.”

And they just hit a new low.

Jameer Nelson had 17 points and a career-high 14 assists, coming up with some big shots late to help Orlando pull away and avenge a 26-point loss at Miami earlier this season.

James had 25 points, Chris Bosh finished with 21 and Dwyane Wade scored 18 for Miami in the latest blow to the collection of stars who came together this summer hoping for a championship. Miami also lost to Memphis and Indiana in the last week, but the loss to its Sunshine State rival might sting most.

Even Magic coach Stan Van Gundy, told of Obama’s comments, joined in the fun.

“I know there’s a lot of time in the day, but I’d be more confident if he didn’t know what was going on in the NBA,” Van Gundy said, chuckling about Obama’s remarks. “We got to get some people back to work. I don’t think he needs to be worried about turning the Heat around. Let (Heat coach) Erik (Spoelstra) worry about that, because Erik certainly isn’t turning the economy around.”

At this rate, Spoelstra might contribute to the job losses.

The Heat’s disappointing start has fueled fodder for the Heat’s critics. Even Lakers coach Phil Jackson intimated that Spoelstra’s job could be in jeopardy if the Heat don’t start winning more—and fast.

Miami’s struggles certainly delight its neighbor to the north.

After the Heat acquired James this summer, Magic president of basketball operations Otis Smith questioned the two-time MVP’s competitiveness for leaving Cleveland. Heat President Pat Riley then took a shot at Smith’s personnel decisions, and Van Gundy—the former Heat



Orlando Magic center Dwight Howard (12) makes a move to the basket past Miami Heat’s LeBron James, left, Joel Anthony (50), and Chris Bosh, during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Orlando, Fla., Wednesday, Nov. 24, 2010.

coach—fired back at Riley.

This time, Orlando finally responded with its play.

Rockets 111, Warriors 101

In Houston, the Houston Rockets have had trouble holding fourth-quarter leads. Not Wednesday night.

Kevin Martin scored 25 points and the Rockets held off the foul-prone Golden State Warriors 111-101 to snap a four-game losing streak.

“We played with a sense of urgency in that fourth quarter,” guard Kevin Lowry said. “It was very positive for us and it was definitely a stepping stone for us and our futures play. We just have to finish.”

Spurs 113, Timberwolves 109 OT

In Minneapolis, even Manu Ginobili thought the San Antonio Spurs’ incredible winning streak was over.

Nothing was falling and the Minnesota Timberwolves were dominating them down low like few others have. But the veteran Spurs didn’t give in even when it appeared to be over, dealing the young Wolves another painful lesson in the process.

Ginobili scored 14 of his 26 points in the fourth quarter to rally the Spurs from 21 points down for their 12th straight victory, 113-109 in overtime on Wednesday night.

Celtics 89, Nets 83

In Boston, Rajon Rondo is out with a hamstring injury, Delonte West broke his wrist Wednesday night and fourth-string point guard Marquis Daniels nearly threw his back out when he committed an unforgivable no-no.

He tried to help Shaquille O’Neal—all 345 pounds or more of him—up from the floor.

“No one lifts Shaq,” Celtics coach Doc Rivers said, smirking. “I told them that.”

It was one of the only times that O’Neal needed help against New Jersey, scoring a season-high 25 points and even hitting four straight free throws as Boston came back to beat the Nets 89-83. O’Neal also matched his season high with 11 rebounds for his second straight double-double.

Jazz 105, Hornets 87

In Salt Lake City, Deron Williams had 26 points and 11 assists, Al Jefferson, Paul Millsap, and C.J. Miles provided big plays down the stretch, and the Utah Jazz beat the New Orleans Hornets 105-87 on Wednesday night.

The Hornets dropped their

second straight and fell to 11-3.

Williams had eight assists in the first quarter, and 14 points by halftime. Jefferson then scored 10 fourth-quarter points as the Jazz (11-5) turned a five-point game into a rout.

Jefferson finished with 23 points and 10 rebounds, while Millsap added 17 points and seven boards.

Cavs 83, Bucks 81

In Cleveland, Mo Williams had never made a winning jumper for the Cavaliers.

He rarely tried.

“We had this other guy,” he said.

LeBron James isn’t around to play hero.

Williams hit a 15-foot jumper in the face of Milwaukee’s Brandon Jennings as time ex-

Van Gundy: Jackson’s comments on Heat ‘ignorant’

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—How’s this for a tame twist in the Sunshine State rivalry: Orlando’s Stan Van Gundy is coming to the defense of Miami coach Erik Spoelstra.

A day after Lakers coach Phil Jackson said Spoelstra’s job could be in jeopardy if the Heat don’t start winning soon, Van Gundy called those comments “inappropriate” and “ignorant.”

Jackson had told a Chicago radio station that Miami’s struggles could lead to Heat President Pat Riley taking over on the sideline and it “could be the Van Gundy thing all over again.”

The Magic coach has never appreciated speculation about him leaving Miami.

“First of all, Phil has no idea what the ‘Van Gundy Situation’ was. Even though he coaches in our league, he certainly has no inside knowledge of that,”

Van Gundy said Wednesday, hours before the Magic handed the Heat (8-7) their third straight loss. “So an analogy that he would make to my situation would be totally useless because he doesn’t have any clue what the situation was in that case.”

Van Gundy dealt with similar speculation in 2005 after Riley said earlier that summer he wanted to “take a little bit more of an active participation” with the Heat. That began a firestorm of conjecture that Riley would come back to the bench and replace Van Gundy as coach.

Van Gundy later resigned as Heat coach 21 games into the season, citing personal and family reasons. Riley took over, leading the Heat to their first championship.

Van Gundy also remains friends with Spoelstra, an assistant on his staff in Mi-

ami. Spoelstra, for his part, didn’t take Jackson’s comments seriously.

Spoelstra said his assistant coaches playfully teased him about Jackson’s comments on the bus ride to the Heat’s morning shootaround, and even he had a chuckle over the comparison to Van Gundy.

“I’m single, so I don’t anticipate I’ll be taking a leave with the team to spend time with my family,” Spoelstra joked.

Heat guard Dwyane Wade was more upset with the messenger than the message.

“The only thing surprising about it is a coach saying it about another coach in this league,” Wade said of Jackson, who has a record 11 NBA titles as coach. “I expect that from someone else to say it, but not another coach. It’s unfortunate. But I guess coach Jackson has earned the right to say what he wants, and he continues to ex-

about the die-hard fans high in the upper deck and turns up his intensity level just for them.

Evans had a career-high 22 rebounds and a season-high 12 points, Andrea Bargnani scored 24 points and the Toronto Raptors extended their winning streak to four games with a 106-90 victory over the Philadelphia 76ers on Wednesday night.

Bulls 123, Suns 115

In Phoenix, Derrick Rose scored 35 points and hit numerous big shots, helping the road-weary Chicago Bulls rally from a 23-point, second-quarter deficit to beat the Phoenix Suns 123-115 in double-overtime Wednesday night.

Nowitzki nailed a 3-pointer in the corner, then converted a four-point play to spark a blur of a 10-point run in the Mavericks’ 111-103 victory over the Oklahoma City Thunder on Wednesday night.

Nowitzki scored 34 points

and teamed with Jason Terry

teamed to score 10 straight

points in a 57-second span to

put Dallas up for good mid-

way through the final period,

and the Mavericks sealed it

with a 12-0 run.

Knicks 99, Bobcats 95

In Charlotte, North Carolina, from the joking with former teammates to the friendly pre-game introduction and the small city of friends and family on hand, Raymond Felton was in the spotlight all night in his first game back in Charlotte.

Then the Bobcats lost track of him when it mattered most.

Felton had 23 points and 13 assists, but it was his decision to sneak into the lane on a free-throw attempt and rip the rebound away from a surprised Tyrus Thomas in the closing seconds that helped preserve the New York Knicks’ 99-95 victory on Wednesday night.

Raptors 106, Sixers 90

In Toronto, whenever Reggie Evans needs motivation, he thinks

Grizzlies 105, Pistons 84

In Memphis, the Detroit Pistons haven’t played well in the second game of back-to-backs this season, and the Memphis Grizzlies took advantage of that after halftime.

Zach Randolph had 21 points and 14 rebounds, Rudy Gay added 17 points, and the Grizzlies used a third-quarter spurt to beat the Pistons 105-84 on Wednesday night.

After a close first half, Memphis outscored Detroit 33-18 in the third, then added 10 unanswered points to open the fourth, building the advantage to 22 and running away from the Pistons, who were coming off an 88-84 loss at Dallas on Tuesday night.

ercise that right.”

Jackson was on “The Waddle & Silvy Show” on WMVP-AM radio in Chicago on Tuesday.

Asked about the Heat’s start, Jackson responded that they better start winning soon or the Heat’s collection of All-Stars might become frustrated with the team’s progress and ask Riley to step in.

“The scenario that sits kind of behind the scene, is that eventually these guys that were recruited—(Chris) Bosh and James—by Pat Riley and Micky Arison, the owner, are going to come in and say, ‘We feel (Riley) can do a better job coaching the team. We came here on the hopes that this would work,’ and whatever, I don’t know,” Jackson said. “That’s kind of my take on it, is that eventually if things don’t straighten out here soon, it could be the Van Gundy thing all over again.”

Martinez agrees to \$50-million deal with Tigers



DETROIT
(AP)—
Victor
Martinez

is joining the Detroit Tigers, bringing another powerful bat to a lineup that already includes slugger Miguel Cabrera.

Martinez and the Tigers reached a preliminary agreement on a \$50 million, four-year contract, a person familiar with the agreement told The Associated Press on Tuesday. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the deal, which was subject to a physical, had not yet been announced.

In 127 games this year with Boston, Martinez hit .302 with 20 homers and 79 RBIs. Although he started 106 games at catcher and also can play first base, the Tigers might use him as a designated hitter.

Detroit already re-signed third baseman Brandon Inge and shortstop Jhonny Peralta (notes) this offseason, and the Tigers added reliever Joaquin Benoit last week. They were looking for another big bat to go along with Cabrera, who hit .328 with 38 home runs in 2010 and finished second to Josh Hamilton in the AL MVP vote.

Despite Cabrera's efforts, the Tigers finished only eighth in the American League in runs. They were hurt by injuries to Inge, Magglio Ordonez and Carlos Guillen.

Ordonez is recovering from



This Sept. 25, 2010, file photo shows Boston Red Sox batter Victor Martinez following through on a home run during the seventh inning of a baseball game against the New York Yankees, at Yankee Stadium in New York. A person familiar with the agreement tells The Associated Press that catcher Martinez and the Detroit Tigers have reached a preliminary agreement on a \$50 million, four-year contract.

right ankle surgery and played only 84 games. The Tigers did not exercise his \$15 million option, so he's a free agent. Detroit announced Tuesday it would not offer arbitration to Ordonez. The Tigers also declined arbitration to outfielder Johnny Damon, catcher Gerald Laird and

pitchers Jeremy Bonderman, and Bobby Seay.

General manager Dave Domrowski, who declines comment until agreements are finalized, has left open the possibility Ordonez could return to the Tigers. Now they'll receive no compensation if he signs elsewhere.

Boston is trying to recover from its own injury-ravaged season. General manager Theo Epstein said this month he wanted to keep Martinez and third baseman Adrian Beltre, another free agent. Boston exercised its \$12.5 million option on designated hitter David Ortiz.

Steinbrenner: Yankees made guys very, very rich

NEW YORK (AP)—Hank Steinbrenner has a message as the New York Yankees negotiate to re-sign Derek Jeter and Mariano Rivera.

"As much as we want to keep everybody, we've already made these guys very, very rich, and I don't feel we owe anybody anything monetarily," the Yankees co-chairman said Tuesday. "Some of these players are wealthier than their bosses."

With negotiations moving slowly, the Yankees declined to offer salary arbitration to Jeter and Rivera before Tuesday's midnight deadline. New York also failed to offer arbitration to left-hander Andy Pettitte, reliever Kerry Wood (notes) and first baseman Lance Berkman but did make the offer to right-hander Javier Vazquez (notes), unlikely to re-sign following a disappointing season.

By offering arbitration, New York would receive draft-pick compensation if Vazquez signs elsewhere. His agents have been negotiating with the Florida Marlins.

New York has made a \$45 million, three-year offer to Jeter, a baseball executive with knowledge of the proposal said, speaking on condition of anonymity because it wasn't made public.

"We've encouraged him to

test the market and see if there's something he would prefer other than this," general manager Brian Cashman told ESPN-NewYork.com, without confirming the figure. "If he can, fine. That's the way it works."

Jeter is coming off a \$189 million, 10-year contract that was second only to Alex Rodriguez's deals of \$252 million and \$275 million, both over a decade.

"Negotiating is always a process," Steinbrenner said. "I know he wants to stay. It's going to come down to what's fair for everybody considering all circumstances."

Now 36, Jeter hit .270 with 10 homers, down from a .334 average and 18 homers the previous season. While his RBIs increased by one to 67, his on-base percentage fell from .406 to .340 and his slugging average dropped from .465 to .370.

An off year or the start of a career-ending tailoff? No way to tell.

But without the threat of negotiations involving other teams, there's little pressure for either side to make a deal quickly.

"Do we want to keep Derek? Of course we do, obviously," Steinbrenner said. "Obviously we all want to keep Derek and we all want to keep Mo."

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Black Stallions lead SEDA winners

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Top Development Incorporated's Black Stallions topped Saipan Electronic Dart Association League's Masters division, finishing the season with an impressive 162-76 record.

The Stallions are made up of team captain Noel Montalbo, Jun Olita, Joy Silva, Robert Valdez, Jun Laperciros, and George Medina.

Oleai Beach Bar & Grill's Erap Snipers (139-99) placed second and D'Pirates Bar & Grill's M-Destroyers (123-115) rounded out the Top 3. Notably, the Stallion's Olita won Top Gun honors in the division, Leo Lindo of the M-Destroyers won the Hi-In award and Junnie Guevarra of Oleai's D'Companeros won the Hi-Out category.

The Flying Dartsmen of Buddies Bar & Grill finished first in the A-division standings with 155 wins and 83 losses. Members include team captain Julian Camacho, Wilson Quiban, Patrick Taitano, Albert Guevarra, Benancio Aguon, and Jay C. Sablan.

The Primos (136-102) of Charlie's Sports Bar took runner-up honors and the Naked Fish Boyz (134-104) of Naked Fish Bar & Grill came in third



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Members of the Black Stallions pose for a group photo after topping Saipan Electronic Dart Association League's Masters division.

place. Notably the Primos' Camacho won both Top Gun and Hi-Out honors, while Jeff Barit of DPBG CK Destroyers' won the Hi-In award.

Yakau of Jonny's Bar finished its season in first place for the Ladies League with 141 wins and 69 losses. Members include team captain Mary-Lois Blaluk, Frances Mogofna, Janice Camacho, Ressie Takeda, Rina Cerezo and Sally Aguon.

The DPBG Strikers (133-77) won second place and their sister team, Mama's Snipers (127-83) came in third.

Mama's Snipers' Aida Laniyo won the Top Gun out of the ladies, Polly Omechelang of USSP's Kmal Sechellim won the Hi-In and the Strikers' Rufina Guevarra won the Hi-Out award.

Salbahe Brothers 2 of Buddies won first place in the Tues-

day B-League with its 139-71 record. Members include team captain Jojo Guilas, Ernie Domingo, Vher Maducodoc, Chris San Gabriel, Renato Barros, Rick Brien, and Willy Apresta.

The Mixed Blood Shooters (135-75) of Tijuana Mexican Restaurant placed second and DPBG's B-Destroyers (125-85) finished out in third.

Mixed Blood's Angelo Hernaez won Top Gun and Hi-In honors in the division and the B-Destroyers' Ricky Cardinez won the Hi-Out award.

The Salbahe Brothers won the Thursday B-Fanihi division with a 127-83 record. The team is made up of the same members of Salbahe Brothers 2, with Michelle Melchor in place of Brien.

IT&E Kamote's (123-87) came in second place and Buddies' Boyz-B (121-89) finished

Buraot's Dave Sablan and Pacific Grocers' Eugene Mangali each were crowned scoring co-champions and issued certificates and trophies.

Saimar Pilot's Sonny Lerio nailed 41 long balls during the season, 11 more than the runner up in the category, to run away with the Best in 3-Pointers trophy.

Ferrera Builders' Andy Mor-

tos was presented with the Sixth Man award, Wings Travel's Bernard Aquino was recognized as Mr. Quality Minutes and Cellular-Pro's Eric Dulfo was declared Darling of the Crowd. All three players received certificates of recognition.

Atalig Associates' Zack Babauta and Buraot's Angelo Fernando were both awarded with sportsmanship awards

third. Boyz-B's Mario Abo won the Top Gun honors for the division, PeeJay Naval of Kamote's won the Hi-In and Ray Cabrera of Buddies Naughty Boyz 2 won the Hi-Out award.

Jonny's Umi Shooters won first place in the B-Flame Tree division with a record of 129 wins and 81 losses.

Members include team captain Alfred Muna, Christopher Jao Bernardo, Nelson Decena, James Villacrusis, Manny Blas Jr., Alejandro Prado, Jeremy Koshiro, and Naomi Samura.

Buddies' Wild Shooters (126-84) took the runner-up honors and VFW Post 3457's Assashunz (119-91) came in third place.

The Wild Shooters' Jun Agbuya won Top Gun honors, Phil Fejehran of VFW's Dutty Gunz won the Hi-In and his teammate Dean Borja won the Hi-Out award.

Buddies Chagi Fan won the Kingfisher-C division with a record of 132 wins and 93 losses.

Members include team captain Jesse Borja, Augustine Hocog, Edwin Atalig, Elton Santos, Shawn San Nicolas, Jon Jon San Nicolas, Ken Villagomez and Joe Aldan.

Charlie's Sabalu (123-102) finished out in second and Buddies' Black Pearls (119-106) came in third. The Black Pearl's David Terlaje won the Top Gun, Jun Manaloto of DPBG Sang

and the Westerners took home the Best in Sportsmanship team trophy.

The championship and runner-up trophies will be presented after the conclusion of the QQ Car Rental Cup finals. The most valuable player for the championship and James Hann's Choice Player of the Tournament will be announced.

(1:17:50), and Jude Hofschneider (1:45:15).

In the women's U50, Schultz led the pack with her time of 1:11:38. Joining her at the finish line were Penny Hofschneider (1:47:51), Prescila Tenorio (1:28:47), Frances Baja (1:31:30), Frances T. Demapan (1:24:44), and Juanita Fajardo (1:20:32).

Danao had the second fastest overall time at 40:30 to top the men's 50 to 59 age group.

He defeated Jeff Race (43:97), Chang Wang Jang (54:08), Gonic Nacario (1:32:36), Rolly Verzon (1:13:05), Joshua Berger (58:17), James Hofschneider (1:47:50), Pedro Vilaga (1:47:50), Abe Mala (56:21), Doug Hartig (48:51), Stuart Smith (41:30), David Banes (1:08:23), Yoichi Matsumura (1:24:30), and Manny Sitchon (1:01:01).

Ninety-nine runners joined yesterday's early morning race and four did not finish. Several participants were newcomers and some did the race after returning to Saipan for the Thanksgiving Day.

And The Gang won the Hi-In and Sabalu's Ray Anthony Aguon won the Hi-Out award.

VFW One Shot won the Chichirika-C division with a record of 142 wins and 83 losses. Members include team captain Tina Agulto, Randy Pagapular, Jeff Bacani, Oscar Porras, Dexter Mendiola, Russel Saimon

and Kevin Maratita.

Jonny's Night Hawks (124-101) won second place and Buddies' Kagman-1 (123-102) finished third.

One Shot's Porras won Top Gun honors, the Night Hawk's Raymond David won the Hi-In and his teammate Ressie Takeada won the Hi-Out award.

12-points in the second quarter, while Abuel led the Builders with six markers to close the frame.

Ferrera kept the pressure on Docomo in the third quarter as well and the former managed to maintain a comfortable 75-58 lead. Ferrera stayed on top behind Abuy's four three-pointers. Notably, Estolas tallied nine points for Docomo and began to heat up his offense.

Estolas and Sharry then combined for 17 markrss in the last quarter, while Ferrera's offense froze and was held to only 14 points. Once Ferrera slowed its pace down, it completely lost its rhythm. Ferrera also missed a lot of free throws in this match and was simply out-hustled late in the game. Estolas and Sharry combined for 51 points in the comeback, while Abuel and Rasa teamed up for 42.

Docomo Pacific 102 – Estolas 31, Sharry 20, Gamboa 18, Santos 16, Esdrelon 14.

Ferrera Builders 100 – Rasa 22, Abuel 20, Abuy 19, Bernardo 15, Abedes 13, David 7, Miranda 3.

Scoring by quarters: 18-29, 30-48, 58-75, 89-89, 102-100.

DOCOMO

From Page 36

Abuel quickly dished it off to teammate Bernardo, who was posting up under the basket and made a bucket to send the game into extra five minutes.

Ferrera started the extension period with ball possession and took an early lead until Docomo's Elmer Esdrelon returned to the game after being injured in the fourth quarter and brought order back to his team's offense.

Although noticeably limping, Esdrelon's mere presence on the court helped open things up for the rest of the Docomo squad. Docomo's Estolas and Sharry stepped up big time in overtime, and the entire second half for that matter.

Game 1 of the finals showdown started with Ferrera running the court very well to build an early 11-point lead, 29-18. Rasa paced the Ferrera Builders with 10 points in the opening quarter.

Then Ferrera stretched it to just under a 20-point advantage, 48-30, at the half. Ferrera's defense held Docomo to just

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	11	4	.733	—
New York	8	8	.500	3 1/2
Toronto	6	9	.400	5
New Jersey	5	10	.333	6
Philadelphia	3	12	.200	8

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Orlando	10	4	.714	—
Atlanta	8	7	.533	2 1/2
Miami	8	7	.533	2 1/2
Washington	5	8	.385	4 1/2
Charlotte	5	10	.333	5 1/2

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	8	5	.615	—
Indiana	7	6	.538	1
Cleveland	6	8	.429	2 1/2
Milwaukee	5	9	.357	3 1/2
Detroit	5	10	.333	4

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	13	1	.929	—
New Orleans	11	3	.786	2
Dallas	10	4	.714	3
Memphis	6	9	.400	7 1/2
Houston	4	10	.286	9

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	11	5	.688	—
Oklahoma City	10	5	.667	1/2
Denver	8	6	.571	2
Portland	8	6	.571	2
Minnesota	4	12	.250	7

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Lakers	13	2	.867	—
Golden State	7	8	.467	6
Phoenix	7	8	.467	6
Sacramento	4	9	.308	8
L.A. Clippers	2	13	.133	11

Yesterday's Games

New York 99, Charlotte 95

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2010 NMIFA U8 Youth Football Fall Festival

PHOTOS by ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Paire and Matansa players in action during the 2010 NMIFA U8 Youth Football Fall Festival at the San Antonio Elementary School Field last weekend.



Matansa players enjoy playing outside the pitch as they wait for their match to start.



Family members and supporters watch the action unfold in the game between MP United and Matansa.



An MP United player uses his body to keep the ball.



Two Matansa defenders chase a Paire striker.



An MP United female striker heads to the goal.



A Tan Holdings FC striker goes for a penalty kick.



Eddie Boy Cho kicks the ball for his second goal against Paire.



A Matansa striker tries to elude the defense of MP United players.



**Magic hand
Heat third
straight loss**

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Saipan Tribune Sports



**Martinez agrees
to \$50-million
deal with Tigers**

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36 FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2010

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Docomo rallies to take Game 1 in OT

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Docomo Pacific stole Game 1 of the best-of-three title series in the 2010 QQ Car Rental Basketball Cup after eking out a 102-100 overtime win over Ferrera Builders last Wednesday night at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Larry Sharry scored the winning basket for Docomo, tipping in a missed shot from Jun Estolas at the buzzer to move their team a win away from clinching the first championship in the QQ Cup.

Game 2 of the short title series will be played tonight at 8:30pm, while the battle for third place honors between IT&E and Wings Travel will take place at 7pm.

It was a come-from-behind win for Docomo, which trailed by double-digits for virtually the whole game. A huge fourth quarter rally had Docomo taking the lead for the first time 82-81, near the two-minute mark of the regulation. Though Ferrera led by double digits, the game remained highly competitive and very physical, as every possession counted.

With three seconds left on the clock in the fourth quarter, Ferrera trailed, 87-89, and then went for a half court outlet pass to captain Wowie Abuel.

See DOCOMO on Page 34



Docomo Pacific's Jun Estolas gets away for an easy layup during Game 1 of their title series in the QQ Cup last Wednesday night at the Garapan Basketball Court.

WALTER SUTHERLAND

Estolas, Abuel get top awards



Ferrera Builders' Wowie Abuel, second left, receives the James Hann Standout Player trophy during the awards ceremony for the QQ Car Rental Basketball Cup last Wednesday night at the Garapan Basketball Court. Joining him in the photo are, from left, QQ Cup's Marlon Sison, James Hann, and Ray Perez.

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Jun Estolas and Wowie Abuel each took home a pair of basketball shoes, trophies, and certificates after winning the top individual awards in the inaugural QQ Car Rental Basketball Cup.

The two prolific guards received their awards in a presentation Wednesday night at the Garapan Basketball Court during halftime of Game 1 of the best-of-three finals between Estolas' Docomo Pacific and Abuel's Ferrera Builders.

Estolas was selected as the regular season most valuable player. He also won the Best in Assists award, with 65 doles outs, and made the cut at the guard position in QQ Car

Rental Cup's Mythical Five.

He is joined on the squad by teammate and fellow guard Elmer Esdrelon, Ferrera Builders' forward Kae Bernardo, and IT&E forward Errol Peredo and center Marlon De Dios.

Esdrelon also went home with the Best in Steals award with a league-leading 35 picked pockets, while Peredo won the Best in Blocked Shots, with 19, and cleared 72 boards during the regular season to win the Best in Rebounds.

Estolas and Peredo fared very well on awards night and each went home with three certificates and three trophies. As MVP, Estolas also won a brand new pair of basketball shoes provided by QQ Cup

See ESTOLAS on Page 34



Three in a row for Mamiko

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Mamiko Oshima-Berger had another record-breaking run in yesterday's 26th

Annual Mt. Tapochao Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot Fun Run en route to a third straight win in the women's division of the uphill race.

Oshima-Berger completed the 4.2-mile run in 42 minutes and 55 seconds, shattering her

2009 winning time of 43:56. In 2008, she submitted 44:09 to gain her first women's division title.

In the men's division, there is a new champion in Keum Bae Ji, who clocked in at 39:22 to finish first overall. Ji crushed the 2009 winning time (40:16)

of Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel, who failed to complete yesterday's race due to an asthma attack on his way up to Mt. Tapochao.

Ji and Oshima Berger received a turkey gift certificate from Joeten Superstores for their feats. Also receiving turkey gift certificates during a brief award ceremony after the race were age groups winners.

The list includes Jocelyn Flores, John Auther, Reylyn Sapong, Michael Mancao, Butch Sublemente, Rebecca Iseman, Amber Sarkkinen, Adam Whitty, Joe Auther, Marcia Schultz, and Caesar Danao.

Flores topped the girls U12 division after clocking in at 1:26:45, while John Auther pre-

See THREE on Page 34



Participants in yesterday's 26th Annual Mt. Tapochao Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot Fun Run pose for a group photo after the race.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Mamiko Oshima-Berger smiles as she nears the finish line of yesterday's 26th Annual Mt. Tapochao Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot Fun Run.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO